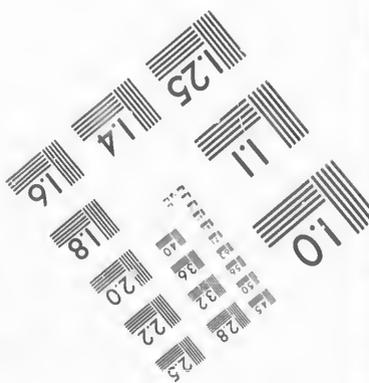
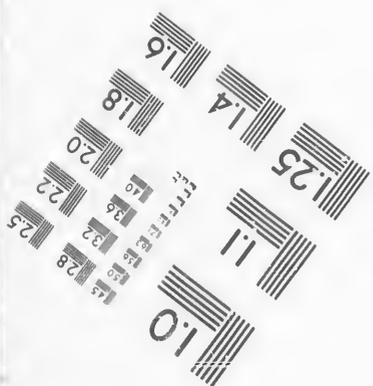
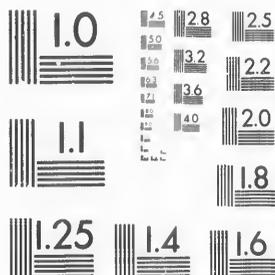


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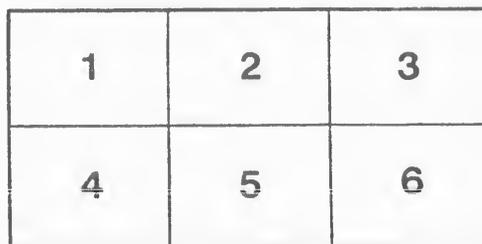
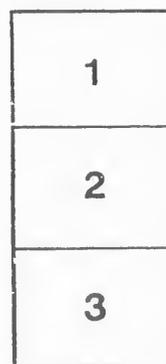
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AUTHENTIC SKETCH

OF THE

LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICES

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY

SIR CHARLES THEOPHILUS METCALFE,

BART., K. C. B., &c. &c. &c.

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Montreal :

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The affectionate regard and esteem felt by a great majority of the intelligent people of this Province for the person and character of Sir CHARLES METCALFE, as evinced on every occasion, has induced the writer of the following Biographical Sketch to place before the public a brief but authentic record of the services which that illustrious individual has rendered to his country.

Comment or eulogy upon those services has been studiously avoided as alike uncalled for, and many incidents illustrative of the kindness and urbanity which distinguish Sir CHAS. METCALFE'S personal character have been withheld, as not being entirely relevant to the object of this publication, which is to place a simple narrative of facts in the hands of all who may feel interested in the subject.

In conclusion, the writer would remark that he trusts any errors or inaccuracies, should such exist, will be pardoned by the reader for the sake of the information which is now (it is believed for the first time) given to the Canadian public.

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## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

OF

THE RIGHT HONORABLE

SIR CHARLES T. METCALFE, BART.

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THE subject of the following brief Memoir, Sir CHARLES T. METCALFE, was born on the 30th of January, 1785 ; he succeeded his elder brother, Sir Theophilus Metcalfe, in the Hereditary Baronetcy in 1822, was created Knight Grand Cross of the Bath by His late Majesty William IV. in 1835, and was called to the Privy Council by our present Gracious Sovereign, in 1839.

It would be foreign to the purpose of this biographical sketch to enter at length into the earlier incidents of his life. It may suffice to state that he was educated at Eton, where he gave early indications of a thirst for knowledge, and that love of literature which has ever been his favorite pursuit.

Sir CHARLES METCALFE received his first appointment in the Civil Service of the East India Company, from his father, Sir Theophilus Metcalfe, Bart. M. P., who was also a member of the Court of Directors, in 1800 ; he sailed for India in the June of that year, and arrived in Calcutta in January, 1801.

After studying the oriental languages for some time in the College at Fort William, then recently founded by the Marquis of Wellesley, at that time Governor-General, he was, towards the close of 1801, appointed Assistant to the Envoy to the Arab States, and subsequently Assistant to the Resident at the Court of the Mahratta Chief, Dowlut Rao Sindheea. In 1802 he was

appointed Assistant to the Chief Secretary to the Supreme Government ; in 1803 Assistant in the Office of the Governor-General, the Marquis of Wellesley. In 1804 he was permitted, at his own request, to join the Commander-in-Chief, Lord Lake, in the field, and attended him as Assistant in Diplomatic Affairs during the campaigns of 1804, 5 and 6.

During the time that he was attached to Lord Lake's army Sir CHARLES METCALFE invariably accompanied the Commander-in-Chief into action ; his cool gallantry under fire was always conspicuous, and he was amongst the first who entered the breach, at the storming of the strong Citadel of Deeg, where the enemy made a most gallant resistance.

In 1806 he was deputed by Lord Lake as Envoy to the Mahratta Chief, Joswaut Rao Holkar, then at Amritser, in the Punjaub, who, driven to that position, had previously been forced to conclude the peace which put an end to the Mahratta War of 1803, 4, 5 and 6. In the course of the latter year he was appointed First Assistant to the Resident at Delhi.

In 1808 he was selected by the Governor-General, Lord Minto, and deputed as Envoy to the Court of Runjeet Singh, the Ruler of Lahore and the Punjaub, and as such he negotiated a treaty with that Prince which established those amicable relations between the British Government and him, that lasted without interruption during the whole of his long and eventful reign.

In 1809 he was selected by the same Governor-General to accompany His Lordship as Deputy Secretary on an important mission to Madras.

In 1810 he was appointed Resident at the Court of the Mahratta Chief, Dowlut Rao Sindheea, and in 1811 Resident at Delhi, at that time the highest Diplomatic office in India, including the Government of the Delhi Territories, and all the relations with the Affghan, Seikh, Rajpoot, and Jaut Chiefs, and also the celebrated and powerful Chief Holkar.

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In 1818 he was called to the capital to assume the duties of Secretary to the Supreme Government in the Secret and Political Departments, and Private Secretary to the Governor-General, the Marquis of Hastings.

In 1820 he was appointed Resident at the Court of the Nizam of the Dekkan, where he remained till called upon again in 1825 to proceed to his former post at Delhi, in consequence of difficulties then existing in that quarter. He accompanied the army, under the Commander-in-Chief, Lord Combermere, to the siege of Bhurtpour, which was taken by assault, and tranquillity again restored to that part of India.

In 1827 he was summoned by appointment from the Court of Directors to a seat in the Supreme Council at Calcutta, and on the termination of five years, the usual period of service in that office, he was re-appointed thereto for two years more.

In 1834 he was appointed by the Imperial Government and the Court of Directors to be the first Governor of the New Presidency of Agra, and in 1835 succeeded Lord William Bentinck, as Governor-General of India and Governor of Bengal, under the provisional appointment usually made, which will be more fully explained hereafter.

From those arduous duties he was relieved in 1836 by the arrival of Lord Auckland, at whose desire and that of the Court of Directors, he resumed the Government of the Territories included in the Presidency of Agra, and the political relations in the North West of India, under the new title of Lieutenant-Governor of the North Western Provinces of India, the Presidency of Agra having been discontinued.

Sir CHAS. METCALFE continued in this highly important office until 1838, when he ultimately resigned it, retiring at the same time from the service of the East India Company, and returning to his native country, after an absence of thirty-eight years.

The causes which led to the voluntary retirement of Sir CHAS. METCALFE from the service of the East India Company, where he

had been so long and so honorably distinguished, are but imperfectly understood by many of the people of Canada, and as they are such as reflect the highest honour upon his character as a statesman of liberal and enlarged views, it is but justice that they should be more fully explained here.

When Acting Governor-General he had in Council passed a law granting full and unrestricted liberty to the press throughout India ; this measure, which he considered imperatively called for, in consequence of the many restrictive, irreconcilable, and inconsistent rules and enactments which existed in various parts of the country, was not approved of by either the Imperial Government or the Court of Directors, and although its justice and wisdom have since been abundantly proved, yet Sir CHAS. METCALFE was in 1837 made aware that it was considered a bar to his farther promotion.

Although perfectly satisfied with the important office which he then held, he did not think it consistent with the duty and self-respect which was due to himself to remain in the public service with the impression alluded to ; he therefore requested of the Court of Directors to intimate to him whether he had been correctly informed as to their feelings and views towards him.

The answer of the Court of Directors, although extremely courteous, neither admitted nor denied the correctness of the information which had been previously received, and being consequently unsatisfactory, Sir CHAS. METCALFE resigned office, and retired from the service of the Company, as before stated.

It is customary on the part of the Imperial Government and the East India Company to name, as Provisional Governor-General, one of their most approved Public Servants, who, in case of sickness, death, or any other casualty, preventing the Governor-General's acting, is duly authorised to assume the functions and exercise the authority which belongs to that high station ; and it redounds highly to the honor both of Sir Charles Metcalfe and the Court of Directors that on three several occasions he was

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the party selected by them to occupy that distinguished position.

It was long the fashion with the detractors of the Duke of Wellington to call him the "Sepoy General," in allusion to his first great successes as a military leader having been obtained in India by and over armies composed of natives of the country.

The brilliant victories, however, which that great warrior afterwards achieved over the armies of France, when commanded by some of her ablest Generals, and finally on the field of Waterloo, over Napoleon himself, have long since silenced the tongue of slander, so far as regards his military character.

The detractors of Sir CHAS. METCALFE, actuated by similar motives, have endeavoured to designate him reproachfully as the "Indian Governor;" but, as in the former case, the laurels which he first gathered on the same fields, where many of Britain's noblest and bravest sons have earned an imperishable name, have been but confirmed and increased by every subsequent act of his public life.

On returning to England in 1838, Sir CHAS. METCALFE lived in retirement at his country seat in Berkshire, and had no intention of again entering public life. But the eye of the illustrious statesman who then presided over the national councils was not slow in perceiving the great advantages which the public service would derive from securing the aid of his profound judgment and long experience.

Accordingly the Government of Jamaica (then in a state of all but open insurrection) was tendered to him in the most flattering manner, and he, acting upon the principle that duty to his country was paramount to all other considerations, frankly, but not unfearily as to the result, accepted it.

When Sir CHAS. METCALFE arrived in Jamaica in September 1839, the state of that fine Island was truly deplorable. Torn intestine faction and domestic dissensions of all kinds, labour had been neglected, trade languished, and both individual and public suffering was consequently great.

One of the earliest acts of his administration was to convene the Colonial Parliament and lay before that body a review of the existing state of affairs in the Island. He pointed out to them, kindly but forcibly, the causes which had conduced to create and continue the evils under which they suffered, and urged upon their immediate consideration such measures as would tend to allay excitement and remove discontent.

He assured them of his most cordial co-operation in every means calculated to effect such a salutary change in public sentiment. He informed them that he had authority from the Imperial Government to suspend the constitution of the colony if he deemed such a measure necessary or advisable, but at the same time declared his intention to consider such authority as non-existent, and ended with the assurance that he placed his hopes of re-establishing the happiness and prosperity of the Island upon the wisdom, patriotism, and loyalty which he trusted would govern their deliberations.

The noble simplicity and manly frankness which prevailed this address, and marked his subsequent intercourse with the colonists, could hardly fail to have the desired effect ; and it will be an enduring monument to his fame, that all classes of a community, where hopeless discord had hitherto prevailed, were so thoroughly convinced of the entire honesty of purpose and singleness of heart by which he was actuated, that every measure of importance which he recommended to the consideration of the Legislature was passed with a previously unheard-of unanimity.

The happy effects resulting from this wise confidence in the advice of the Governor were soon eminently conspicuous, and it is now a matter of history that the preservation of the peace, happiness, and constitutional liberty of Jamaica, was mainly, if not entirely, owing to the kind and liberal policy which distinguished his administration.

As soon as he was of opinion that he could again seek the

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retirement which he loved, without injury to the public service, Sir CHAS. METCALFE resigned the Government of Jamaica, and returned to England in July, 1842.

Such a scene as took place upon his departure from the Island had seldom, if ever, been witnessed there. The population, without distinction, turned out to bid an affectionate farewell to their beloved Governor, and he was accompanied into his retirement by the prayers and blessings of a people whose beautiful country he had, under Providence, been mainly instrumental in rescuing from so many threatened calamities.

It speaks volumes in favor both of the people of Jamaica and of the permanent good effects of Sir CHAS. METCALFE'S administration, that long after he had left the colony the Legislature voted the munificent sum of £5000 to erect a statue to him, and a private subscription to a still greater amount was raised for the purpose of founding a charitable institution, to be called the Metcalfe Dispensary (which is now in operation); so that his name, and the memory of the blessings conferred by his government, should be perpetuated to all succeeding generations.

It is one of the strongest indications of a high and noble nature when a great minister, intent alone upon the advancement of his country's interests, can, in pursuance of this object, (and overlooking the claims which political supporters may be supposed to have upon him) select to carry out the measures of Government one who, personally unknown to him, has a reputation as extended as the limits of the Great Empire which he has so long and so faithfully served.

Such was the relative position of Sir ROBERT PEEL and Sir CHAS. METCALFE when the Government of British North America was tendered to the latter. The same sense of duty which actuated him on former occasions prevailed also on this, and he accepted the high trust, with the determination to discharge its duties fully, faithfully, and impartially.

The events which have marked Sir CHAS. METCALFE'S Cana-

dian administration are so well known and of such recent occurrence, that any particular notice of them here would perhaps be superfluous. It may not, however, be out of place to advert to his firm and noble refusal to sacrifice the just Prerogative of the Crown, and the rights and liberties of a large portion of the people of Canada, to the demands of a presumptuous and tyrannical faction; to his reply to the Gore Address, which should be printed in letters of gold, and its sentiments treasured in the heart of every loyal man in Canada; to his unbounded liberality and charity, which know no distinction of race or creed; and finally to the stern integrity, impartiality, and love of justice which so pre-eminently distinguish both his public and private character.

It is stated upon the best authority that our Gracious Sovereign has declared her intention of raising Sir CHARLES METCALFE to the Peerage, in token of Her high approbation of his long and meritorious services. This mark of approval, coming from so high a source, must of course be extremely gratifying to him; and it is equally certain that the response from every truly British heart in Canada, when informed that the conferring of the proposed honors has been consummated, will be—

"He won them well,  
And may he wear them long."

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NOTE.—In person Sir CHARLES METCALFE is about the middle size, strongly and compactly built, and apparently capable of enduring great bodily fatigue. The usual expression of his countenance, when in repose, is that of mild and benevolent gravity; phrenologically speaking, his head exhibits benevolence, conscientiousness, and firmness, in a very remarkable degree, as may be seen on referring to the excellent likeness lately published from Mr. Bradish's portrait of him.

