
Phrenological Soundings

OF M.P.P.S.

No. XVII.—H. Robillard, Esq.

No. XVIII.—J. Baxter, Esq.

No. XIX.—W. D. Balfour, Esq.

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No. XVII.

H. ROBILLARD, ESQ.

In order to avoid, so far as possible, the appearance of flattery, in the case of the member for Russell, we will content ourselves with observing that that gentleman has no slight cause for gratitude to the "Parent of good" for the organization with which He has endowed him. His mental faculties are enshrined in a frame so robust, that if he will acquaint himself with the laws of health, and will reduce those laws to practice, we trust he will realize the added boon of length of days which, *so far as regards our Creator*, is undoubtedly his design. Mr. Robillard's mind is naturally active and excitable; he is a keen observer, and will be at no loss to detect deviations from the path of rectitude; he remembers persons well, but forgets their names; is given to travel and can find his way, as it were instinctively; appreciates neatness and order, but does not necessarily at all times illustrate these virtues. The hon. member is not intended by nature for a wire-puller, inasmuch as his tendency is towards impetuosity; neither can he be said to have been designed to be a subject for a party whip, for in the event of such an instrument being applied to him, we would not be answerable for his not overleaping the traces. There are indications of the strictest integrity characterizing this gentleman, so that if the political wind should change, and he should cease to be as "powerless" as at present, we may rely on his maintaining a promise, even to his own detriment. His sense of right will render him highly indignant and severe in any case wherein the laws of equity may be violated.

The Dominion is not so overstocked with men who will espouse the cause of the feeble, but that we may rejoice to recognize such a disposition on the part of the subject of this "sounding"; and our satisfaction is unlikely to be diminished by our being enabled to recognize such a combination of qualities, as sympathy, generosity, and truthfulness, in this case. The strength of will possessed by this gentleman, must necessarily give force to such characteristics as have been already indicated, and one would not desire to diminish it. But one is free to con-

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fess that his social qualities being what they are, it is scarcely possible not to covet being within the range of their influence. It will hardly be regarded as disparaging, if we add that Mr. Robillard is one of the impulsive order, quick-tempered, outspoken, and possibly severe, but it would be impossible for a man of such a disposition to harbor ill-feeling beyond the moment of anger, so that it is to be hoped it is allowable to observe that neither the County of Russell nor ourselves will, take him all in all, soon look upon their member's like again.

No. XVIII.

J. BAXTER, ESQ.

The medical member for Haldimand, in common with most gentlemen who have attached the letters "M.D." to their names, is unlikely to imbibe medicine largely ; he consequently appears to have a good prospect of a protracted career, as he is blessed with a sound mind and a sound body ; as the writer is conscious of being an opponent of the hon. member's professional position, and equally conscious of the hon. member's disposition to crush an opponent, he will take care to maintain a respectful distance from him. The record of the doctor's special qualifications shall nevertheless be impartially chronicled. Good financing ability is one of the prominent characteristics of this gentleman ; he can also keep a secret just so long as he deems it necessary so to do ; he is therefore unlikely to acknowledge—what one of his co-professionals in the House has acknowledged to the writer—the utter incompetency of the profession to grapple with disease ; he is too discreet to commit himself by means of volubility ; his mechanical talent is considerable, and he ought to excel as a surgeon. We hope that his love of the beautiful may ere long find a sphere for its exercise in the selection of the best "elevation" for the Parliament buildings. His severity of manner is not calculated to conciliate. He possesses a good memory, and his perceptive faculties are more marked than is his reasoning power ; his secretiveness militates against his fluency ; his love of home and friends is more pronounced than is that of his country. The doctor's intellectual qualities, in conjunction with his combative propensities, are such that we hope to see him ranged on the side of reason in relation to the present movement for urging the medical profession to adopt any proved means of effecting cures.

That august board, the Board of Health, which when playing at Parliament, goes into committee of the whole *six*, of which half dozen members it fabricates nine committees—this same

august board which so assiduously combines the functions of the civil engineer with those of the scavenger, is sadly negligent in regard to the health of its Parliamentary garrison ; the outlay of some \$15, had the board but intelligence enough to know the need of ventilation, would render the atmosphere of the Legislative Hall far less pestilential than it is at present. We happen to know that one member of the garrison is suffering from this neglect at the present time.

No. XIX.

W. D. BALFOUR, ESQ.

The frail tenement occupied by the mind of the member for the South Riding of Essex would suggest forebodings to any observer, whether he were a phrenologist or not. As we don't suppose this literary gentleman is among those who "see theirsels as ithers see them," our first concern with regard to him necessarily relates to his health, and we are reminded that we have already witnessed the lopping off of one of the members of the House during the present session, simply because, in common with the bulk of the civilized world, the last consideration entertained by them is the art to live. We will cheerfully do our best to instruct this gentleman with regard to this neglected art, if he will deign to learn from non-professional sources ; meanwhile we will intimate what are the results of the "soundings" in his case. Activity of mind and readiness of perception are suggested at a glance, and his intuition is such as to render him firm, positive, and self-reliant ; he possesses good reasoning faculties, and is a good judge of character. The hon. member will persevere in his projects, in the consciousness of their being sound, regardless of the opinions of others ; he entertains a strong sense of right, and will be indignant at meanness, of which probably it will not be necessary for him to travel far in quest of illustrations ; though pugnaciously inclined, he lacks force to give execution to his disposition ; he possesses a good memory for events, and his mastery over details cannot fail to be serviceable to him ; he is somewhat sensitive, enjoys fun, and is a man of refined taste ; on this account we hope to see him on the building committee of the new House ; as he will be generally courteous and polite, he may perhaps be regarded as exceptional in that respect.