

ROSE'S NATIONAL BIOGRAPHICAL SERIES. I.

A CYCLOPÆDIA
OF
CANADIAN BIOGRAPHY:

BEING
CHIEFLY MEN OF THE TIME.

A COLLECTION OF PERSONS DISTINGUISHED IN PROFESSIONAL AND
POLITICAL LIFE; LEADERS IN THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
OF CANADA; AND SUCCESSFUL PIONEERS.

EDITED BY
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Preston has many estimable social qualities, and in professional and parliamentary life duty is to him above all other things. He has always taken a warm interest in agricultural matters, and is president of the North Crosby and Newboro' Agricultural Association. Upon the floor of the legislature Dr. Preston speaks with the well-contained confidence of one who is master of the subject and the situation, and therefore always receives close and serious attention.

Lusignan, J. Baptiste Alphonse, Ottawa, was born at Saint Denis, County of Saint Hyacinthe, Province of Quebec, on the 27th of September, 1843. He is a son of Jean Baptiste Lusignan, by his wife Onésime Mâsse, who died in 1872. She was of German descent by her father, and of Scotch descent by her mother. Jean Baptiste Lusignan comes from the historical family of that name. One of his ancestors, Jean Miel de Lusignan, emigrated to this country from the Province of Poitou, France, at the end of the 17th century, and was married at Boucherville, Province of Quebec, in 1699. Our subjects' grandfather, Antoine, was killed at the battle of Saint Denis, and there too his father, aged nineteen, fought by his side against the British troops in 1837, when the insurrection was suppressed. Our subjects' father fled to the United States, but soon after returned. He was the youngest but one of seven brothers. He became a merchant, and married in 1841. J. B. A. Lusignan is the eldest of eleven children, nine boys and two girls. Young Lusignan was educated at the College of Saint Hyacinthe, entering that college in 1852, when yet not nine years old. He went through a complete curriculum of classic studies, which terminated in 1859, he being then not quite sixteen. He studied divinity for three years at the Seminary of St. Hyacinthe, and at the Montreal Seminary. In 1867, he studied law under M. Fournier, now a judge of the Supreme Court, and formerly a minister of the Mackenzie government; afterwards under M. Papineau, now judge of the Superior Court, and finally under the late Joseph Doutre, Q.C., at Montreal. He was a pupil of the Laval University at Quebec in 1862-3. In 1863, he became assistant editor of the *Tribune*, Quebec, and of the *Journal de Saint Hyacinthe*. He took second and first-class certificates at the Québec Military school in 1864. He wrote a pamphlet in 1864 against the management of that school, which had the effect of putting the French cadets on the same footing as the English, and secured to them equal consideration. In February,

1874, he became private secretary to Sir A. A. Dorion, minister of Justice, and in March to Hon. T. Fournier, minister of Inland Revenue. Later on in the summer of 1874, he became private secretary to the Hon. F. Geoffrion, minister of Inland Revenue. He is still in the same department, a second-class clerk. In 1864, he became first president of a legal society, called "Le Cercle Légal," with Mr., now the Hon. L. O. Taillon, attorney-general for Quebec, as vice-president at Montreal. From 1865 to 1868, he was one of the board of directors of the Institut Canadien de Montreal, acting in various capacities. He was assistant-editor of *l'Union Nationale* in 1865; and in the same year editor-in-chief of *Le Pays*, the leading French organ of the Liberal party in Montreal, until 1868, when he resigned in order to be admitted to the bar. He was admitted to the Lower Canada bar in December, 1868, and practised in Saint Hyacinthe from that date to January 1874. He was Crown prosecutor at Aylmer, County of Ottawa, Province of Quebec, in July, 1878; was president of *L'Institut Canadien Français* of Ottawa, in 1881, and declined re-election in 1882. He founded in the spring of 1885, the St. Lawrence Fishing Company, having its seat of operations on the Labrador coast, with Count de Puyjalon as manager, and of this, he, M. Lusignan, was one of the directors. He was also one of the founders and directors of the Stadacona Club, Ottawa, in 1883; president of the Convention Nationale, in connection with the celebration of the Saint Jean Baptiste festivity in June, 1885, at Ottawa. He was one of the invited speakers at the Congrès National of the Saint Jean Baptiste Society, in Montreal in 1884, where he spoke on literary criticism. He was elected member of the Royal Society of Canada in May, 1885, to replace N. Bourassa, who had resigned, and was then appointed secretary to the French (or 1st) section. He took an active part as speaker in over fifty Federal and Provincial elections, from 1863 to 1878. He is a regular contributor to *La Patrie* (Montreal), and to the literary reviews. We may say that M. Lusignan signs all his articles. He published in 1872, a law book, which is a continuation to Judge Ramsay's "Digest of Reported Cases" in Lower Canada. His book extends from the end of 1862 to end of 1871, and contains 308 pages in 8vo. It has proved a decided financial success. He published in 1884, "Coups d'œil et coups de plume, 342 pp. in 8vo. He published, in 1867, a pamphlet of 86 pp. against Con-

federation, intituled : " La Confédération, couronnement de dix années de mauvaise administration." M. Lusignan is an honorary member of several literary societies, both in France and Canada, and also of benevolent and national societies and sporting clubs. He is a republican, favouring the independence of Canada in the near future. His travels have been confined to the Labrador coast, and he is now writing an account of his travels in *La Patrie*. He is a Roman catholic, but not bigoted, conceding the liberty of thought, of speech and of worship to every man. He married in June, 1869, Malvina, daughter of I. N. Melançon, of Joliette, Province of Quebec, advocate. There are only two living children, both girls, by this union.

Cantlie, James A., Montreal, was born at Clungmore, in the parish of Mortlach, Banffshire, Scotland, on the 5th June, 1836. His father adopted agricultural pursuits, but the son chose for himself a commercial career, and commerce became the gainer by that choice. James A. Cantlie received an ordinary English education, and in the year 1854, was apprenticed to Patrick Collie, wholesale and retail dry goods merchant, Union street, Aberdeen, with whom he remained until the death of his employer in December, 1860. Four years of steady attention to business, and a deep interest in the pursuit he had chosen, placed Mr. Cantlie at the head of the retail department. At the death of Mr. Collie the business was purchased by Symon & Co., with whom Mr. Cantlie entered into another engagement, remaining, however, but a short period. A young man possessing the knowledge and experience of the dry goods business such as Mr. Cantlie by this time had attained, was not likely to be long idle, and shortly after leaving Symon & Co. he effected an engagement with Pratt & Keith, wincey manufacturers and wholesale and retail dry goods merchants, Aberdeen, with whom he remained until the spring of 1863, when an offer came across the Atlantic for his services. He lost no time in preparing to leave his native heather and home to repair to a far western country, more congenial to his advanced ideas, and in May, 1863, he landed in Montreal. On the 11th of the same month he entered the employment of William Stephen & Co., of that city. In the fall of 1863, after he had become somewhat accustomed to the habits and peculiarities of the Canadian people, he began to travel for this firm, and continued as one of their representatives on "the road"

until November, 1865, when, after acquiring a thorough knowledge of the country and its demands for English productions, he was deemed sufficiently qualified to visit the English markets on a purchasing tour, whither he made the first trip, as assistant buyer, in November, 1865. He continued to cross the Atlantic in this capacity at the different seasons until the business was sold out, in 1847, to the present firm of Robertson, Linton & Co. He did not continue with the incoming firm, but accepted a position with George Stephen & Co., dealers in Canadian woollens, and continued to represent them until 1869, when he entered into a co-partnership with Alexander Ewan and William Stephen, under the firm name of Cantlie, Ewan & Co. This partnership was not of long duration, Mr. Stephen retiring soon after its formation; but the title of the firm was continued by the two remaining partners. Mr. Cantlie was always a zealous worker in anything belonging to the personality of the commercial travellers. He identified himself closely at all times with the fraternity, and was elected one of the first officers of the Toronto association without his knowledge, showing how highly his executive services were valued by his fellow travellers. He was also elected president of the Dominion Commercial Travellers' Association, of Montreal, in 1880, and re-elected president by acclamation, in 1881, and to him is due, together with his brother officers of that association, the persistent fighting against the outrageous commercial traveller's tax in New Brunswick and Quebec, and the carrying of the case, with regard to the former, to the Supreme Court at Ottawa, winning for the association a great victory, and wiping out for ever a barbarous law. Mr. Cantlie's object is to make the Commercial Travellers Association of a benevolent character, whereby assistance can be rendered in time of need, and it is gratifying to know that they have ample means at their command.

Dawson, John Edward, London, Ontario, Assistant Superintendent of the Grand Trunk Railway and the Great Western Railway, was born on the 20th of February, 1841, in the County of Carlow, Ireland. He is the third son of the Rev. George B. Dawson, M.A., rector of Aghade, and brother of Major G. D. Dawson, of the Grenadiers, late of Her Majesty's 47th Regiment. His mother was a sister of Lieutenant-General Sir Dudley Hill, K.C.B., who died when in command of a division in India, under Lord Napier. Mr. Dawson received his education