

one of them a protracted lease of power with the talismanic words :
 " Canada for Canadians."

To the first parliament of the Dominion every province sent its best men. I think it will not be denied that it was the best parliament, in every sense, that ever assembled at Ottawa. Whether it was that the old provincial legislatures formed training schools which developed the political capacities in a way that the present system fails to accomplish, or whether the objects and methods of public life were higher and better in those days than in these, the fact, nevertheless, is evident that the old school of parliamentarians were vastly superior as a body to their successors. There were giants in those days, indeed, and, looking back to a period which seems already remote, so great is the change, we may exclaim with the poet :

" We, we have seen the intellectual race
 Of giants stand, like Titans, face to face :
 Athos and Ida, with a dashing sea
 Of eloquence between."

It was in that parliament of the Fathers of Confederation that Richard John Cartwright first made his mark. He had served, like most of those who sat with him, an apprenticeship in the provincial legislature. From the beginning of his career, he had been regarded as one of the most promising of the rising generation of conservatives, and held, in the estimation of those who knew him, a near place in the direct succession to the leadership of that party. Soon after the union became an accomplished fact, it was known that Sir Alexander Galt, the author of the policy of " Incidental Protection," cherished opinions seriously at variance with the policy of the government, and Mr. Cartwright, who sat beside him in the front row on the ministerial side of the House, was credited with sharing those opinions. These two may be said to have represented that more exclusive element, in the Conservative party, which recoiled from what it considered the questionable ideas, methods and associations thrust upon it in the new sphere of Dominion affairs. Principally was Mr. Cartwright offended at what he could not but regard as the somewhat extravagant opportunism of the new *régime*.

Having devoted much time and profound study to financial questions, and having had personal experience in the banking business of the country, he was well qualified for the position assigned him by