

reply, and that he had offered up his prayers and received Communion with the intention as I had wished. The child anticipated me, I was happy and confident, and when I got started I felt not only equal to the occasion, but master of it. I felt inspired and stronger than I ever felt before, and I attribute all that to the fervent prayers of that innocent child."

Sir John was a practical Catholic. The Sunday morning before he left Ottawa for London, he, with his two sons, received Holy Communion in St. Joseph's Church. He would steal away from the House, even in the midst of a debate, to visit the Blessed Sacrament in one of the city churches. Monseigneur O'Reilly, preaching a few days ago in Quebec, made known this edifying fact: "He had in his home a picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, before which, night and day, a lamp was kept burning. Before this loved image and symbol of the Divine Charity incarnate, he never failed to kneel on his return from the House of Parliament at the latest hour of the night. And from his knees he never rose till he had recited the rosary, the little office of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and his daily devotion to the Sacred Heart." In the important election of 1891, he spent the night at Father Laffin's, in Tracadie. All Canada was excited, but the man whom the result perhaps most deeply concerned, what was he doing? He was found in his room by the Father upon his knees before the crucifix, saying his rosary. On another occasion he stayed with Father Cameron, Cape George, Antigonish. Very early in the morning the priest entered the church to hear confessions. Who was there? Sir John, kneeling in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. At Windsor Castle he bore on his person eloquent reminders of his faith. A crucifix, a rosary and a portrait of the Saviour, were found upon his lifeless body. These touching circumstances will find their place in the yet unwritten history of the first Catholic Premier of the Dominion of Canada. The Montreal Star appreciatively echoes the above remarks: "Sir John was sometimes attacked on the score of his religion; but we suspect that the presence of religious principle, as an active motive in life,

played no small part in the making up of the upright man we mourn."

Sir John was best upon the bench and in the law school. There are old Dalhousie graduates to-day who say that, as an exponent of law, his equal was not on the continent. So recognized were his abilities, and so profound was his knowledge, that from his admission to the bar until his appointment as judge, there was hardly an important case in his native province upon which he was not engaged. So great was he as a pleader, that no matter how well the presentation of a case was made, the court would seem to say: "We would admit those common sense propositions at once, if it were not that Mr. Thompson is coming after you."

He has set his seal on a larger and more enduring series of statutes than were ever placed on our law books by any Canadian statesman. His work in the Justice department is a living monument to his genius. The Behring Sea case, the fishery dispute and the copyright question, have been won while his abilities were at the service of the state. His Criminal Code marks a new era in criminal legislation, not only in Canada, but throughout the whole world. To his support do we owe the rule, antagonized by Sir John Macdonald, that accused persons may testify in their own behalf. It can be said of him as was once said of Goldsmith: "he touched nothing that he did not adorn."

His private life was simple and unostentatious. He was essentially a domestic man, devoted and kind to his family, and what time he could afford was spent in their midst. A genial atmosphere pervaded his home, and whoever crossed his unpretentious threshold, felt he was in the house of a man, who, were he to consult his own desires, would devote his talents to the profession which he adorned, and enjoy those pleasures that are to be found around a home-hearth. But those talents were ungrudgingly employed for the advancement of his country, and the cementing of the British Empire.

Sir John was not an orator, nor did he make any attempt at oratory. He was a quiet, easy and effective speaker. He had not the strange magic which resides in the mere sound of some voices, the