

Disraeli was elected to represent the borough of Maidstone, he was thirty-two years old. It would have been a case of *adolescentulus* in the days of Cicero, but the days of Cicero have been,—

*Illium fuit et ingens gloria Teucrorum.*

When Sir John Macdonald, in 1844, was elected to represent Kingston in the old Legislative Assembly of United Canada, he was of the comparatively mature age of twenty-nine. Kingston received him, on his entry into public life, with open arms, and he knew not then the bitterness of repulse; but thrice had the electors of High Wycombe, and once "the free and independent" of Taunton, rejected Disraeli before Maidstone, like a female Barkis, "was willin'."

From 1847 to 1876, for twenty-nine years, Disraeli sat for the County of Buckingham, until, in fact, his elevation to the peerage. From 1844 to 1878, a still longer space of years, Sir John Macdonald represented Kingston. Disraeli served an apprenticeship of twelve years of Parliamentary life before becoming a Minister of the Crown; but the Canadian statesman had had barely two years and a half of a legislator's experience before he was appointed Receiver-General in the Draper-Daly Cabinet. Lord Beaconsfield began life as a Radical; Sir John Macdonald has ever been a consistent Tory. By birth a Scotchman, the latter has proven himself to be absolutely loyal and devoted to Canada; while the former, the descendant of Jews, showed himself more English than the English themselves, though so eminently magnanimous an antagonist as Mr. Gladstone once hurled at him the reproach that "he had not in his veins one drop of English blood." But the most striking similarity between the statesmanship of the two men is seen in their cult of a lofty opportunism. By this Sir John Macdonald has won some of his most signal victories; and it is no more than his due to say that with him opportunism, while it may have clashed with consistency, has never been inconsistent with patriotism. No man in the public life of any country has felt the public pulse more intelligently than the Premier. He has prescribed for the public health just as he thought best at the critical time, practising now on the lines of