

incidence, however, Mr. Charlton gained his point by having the subject of reference to the Supreme Court passed upon by the House just one year from the day on which his first attempt had failed. The motion was then debated and lost. Mr. Charlton was a leader in the Equal Rights Association which grew out of the agitation on the Jesuits' Estates question. He was the subject of much criticism for his subsequent action, but his course was one quite consistent with every principle he had previously laid down. He found the attempt made in the executive committee of the association just before the provincial general election, by means of a manifesto, to reflect, as he believed unjustly, upon the Ontario Government as led by Hon. Oliver Mowat, a government which he held to be the purest and best the country had ever known. He declined to be a party to this action, refused to subscribe to the manifesto when it was issued, and not only that, but to offset at much as possible the attempt that had been made, he published a letter to Wm. Cavan, D.D., president of the association, giving his reasons for refusing to sign the manifesto, and took the stump in favour of the Government. In the course of that campaign, which seemed more ominous for the Government than any previous one since Mr. Mowat's accession to office, Mr. Charlton addressed many meetings, and always with effect. The foregoing is but a part of the public work, the conscientious, even laborious, performance of which is the solid foundation upon which the political reputation of Mr. Charlton rests. He is thoroughly popular in his own county, having turned a Conservative riding into what is commonly known as a "Grit hive." He is also held in high esteem among his fellow members of the House of Commons. Those of his opponents who grow restive under his denunciations of their course, or who fail to find argument with which to reply to him, invariably call him an annexationist, some even clinching this accusation by reference to his American birth. This was the chief cry raised against him in his first election, and wherever attempts are made to reply to him on the platform or in Parliament, the same may still be heard. Instead of weakly begging out of such accusations, Mr. Charlton meets them aggressively, and makes them add to the strength of his position. He is a close and intelligent student of American affairs, and his illustrations of warning and example respecting the political course of Canada are largely drawn from the history of the Republic. Instead of noting only those points where Canada has the advantage of her neighbour, and vaingloriously boasting of it, Mr. Charlton, recognizing how many points of similarity there are in the social and political circumstances of the two peoples, seeks

to use the experience of the Americans as a matter of practical and real benefit to Canada. A sound-minded man holding this view is naturally unaffected by sneers. By his whole private and public life, Mr. Charlton has declared his preference for Canadian over American institutions as a whole, and few have done harder or better work than he in keeping those institutions sound and strong and effective for the maintenance of the rights of the individual. Though engaged in an extensive business, and devoting much time to public affairs, Mr. Charlton has made opportunities to do good, useful work in connection with church and Sunday-school. He is an ardent Presbyterian, and has taken a prominent part in the affairs of the denomination. At the meeting of the General Assembly in Hamilton, in 1886, he made a strong speech in advocacy of the consolidation of the theological colleges carried on under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. The proposal was received with a good deal of favour, but it aroused opposition among the representatives of the colleges, who are a power in the Assembly by reason not so much of their numbers as their commanding ability. The debate was the occasion for a lively passage at arms between Mr. Charlton and the Rev. Principal Grant, in which that divine did not have it all his own way. Mr. Charlton purposes pressing this question again upon the attention of the Assembly. His ability and his knowledge of public affairs, combined with his thorough practical acquaintance with their business, has led those engaged in the lumber and timber business, to look to Mr. Charlton for assistance in matters which require legislative or executive action. For years he fought the export duty on logs, and his speeches had much to do with causing the Government (in 1889) to rescind its action in increasing that duty. Another public office in which he has been engaged, and one wholly different from those mentioned above, was that of chairman of the commission on the mineral resources of Ontario. That commission visited the important mining districts of the province, and took the evidence of all those mining experts, mine owners and others who, it was believed, could give information of value to the people on the subject engaging the attention of the commission, and Mr. Charlton and the secretary of the commission, Mr. Blue, also visited some leading centres of the United States, where information respecting mining in its legislative, economic, or industrial phases, was to be had. Among other places visited were Washington, Pittsburg, Pa., Chattanooga, Tenn., and Birmingham, Ala. The report of the commission was presented in 1889. It is admitted to be one of the most valuable state documents of this character ever issued. Mr.