

a tribute which I wish had, in this instance, been more deserved. Such kindness takes the sting out of much that is disagreeable in politics, and removes one of the drawbacks that deter many men of sensibility from taking part in public affairs; you will believe me then, I think, when, in conclusion, I say that though my residence for the time will be changed, the associations and friendships which thirty years have given birth to will remain unbroken. The place of one's early struggle; the theatre of one's former professional and public life; the ground which is hallowed by the memory of warm and disinterested friendships; the birth place of one's children, and the sphere wherein the success or failure in life of some of them is to be determined, their present and future home, and, let me add, the home which has been made glad and brightened by one who is now present a grateful witness of your generous regard, cannot be forgotten. And when, added to all this, there is the kindest parting which it has perhaps ever fallen to the lot of any man to receive from all classes in the community, you do not, I am sure, need the assurance that these remembrances will live as long as memory and feeling survive.

The honourable gentleman resumed amid great applause, the entire assembly rising to their feet and cheering repeatedly.

"Her Majesty's Ministers of the Dominion of Canada."

The CHAIRMAN—

As this entertainment is non-political, I beg to offer this toast in accordance with what I believe we may term English precedent, where, upon public occasions, the health of the Ministry is proposed out of respect for the gentlemen themselves and irrespective of any party politics. I am certain that gentlemen of all shades of politics in this assembly will cheerfully unite in any acknowledgment of the personal worth and high character of the gentlemen at present composing the Dominion Cabinet. They are all gentlemen of the highest position in society, some of them men of great ability, and all, I believe, of the highest integrity and honour. Gentlemen, "Her Majesty's Ministers of the Dominion Cabinet."

Music by the band.

Sir GEORGE E. CARTIER was received with loud applause. He said:—Mr. Mayor, General and Gentlemen,—On behalf of my colleagues and myself, I beg to express our feeling of gratitude for this toast and for the enthusiasm with which you have drunk it. I understand very well that the toast is not any expression of approbation of our ministerial conduct. Hence it is very difficult for me to answer this toast, as I am necessarily restricted in my remarks. I am not going on this occasion, for instance, to state that as Ministers of the Crown we intend to be better than we were formerly (loud laughter), or that we intend hereafter to introduce such measures as will be above the criticism of such able leaders of the Opposition as my honourable friend from Chateaugay or my honourable friend from Hochelaga. (Laughter.) We are met on this occasion not as in the House of Parliament to discuss public measures, but for something more agreeable—to do honour to our friend, who is unfortunately leaving the Government, I must say that we suffer a great loss by his departure, and not only us but the whole country. (Cheers.) I am proud to say that I was the first to induce him to become a member of the Government as Solicitor-General—an office which you all know he filled with as much

success as any man who ever held it. Afterwards, when the Commissionership of Public Works became vacant, I proposed to him to undertake the arduous duties of that post, which he did, and you know with what success. Subsequently, when the office of Finance Minister became vacant, I went to my friend and asked him to join us and take that office. He was reluctant to consent; with his usual modesty he expressed doubt as to his ability to discharge the important duties of that office. There is one fact in this connexion which, perhaps, is known only by a few—when I proposed to him to join us as Minister of Finance I stated to him that in a short time in all probability there would be a vacancy in the Court of Appeal, and that if he would not accept the post of Finance Minister, very likely in two or three months he would be appointed one of the Judges of the Court of Appeal. My hon. friend, knowing this, consented to join us, and took the most difficult portfolio in the Cabinet (cheers). The same characteristics which gave him success in his former career gave him also success in this office. The three conditions of success are ability, honesty, and persevering labor, and these he possessed in a high degree (cheers). We are to lose him, but at all events we have this consolation, that when he goes to the mother country, the same characteristics which ensured him success here will command him success there, and thus he will reflect honor upon this country in the mother country (loud cheers). The laurels which he will earn there—for I am sure he will earn laurels—will redound to the credit of Canada. (Renewed cheers.) I have mentioned the term "mother country," though I notice a leading paper there would deprive us of the right to use it. But I stick to the appellation of mother country as applied to England; for she is our mother country (cheers). Who does not reflect with pride and satisfaction on that lovely triplicate being, which was formed by the union of the daughter of the rose, the daughter of the shamrock, and—I cannot say the daughter of the thistle (loud laughter)—but, to continue my poetical flight, I will say the daughter of the land of cakes. And I cannot forget that at an early period of the history of England she was assisted by that fair daughter from Normandy, brought over by William the Conqueror. Here in this country we have all these races—Englishmen, Scotchmen, Irishmen, and Normans—because the most part of the French population of Lower Canada are descended from the Norman race. I do not mean, in saying this, that we intend to call ourselves conquerors [laughter], but we intend to keep our ground here [more laughter]. Well, notwithstanding that great paper, the *Times*, I will continue, and I am sure you will also, to call old England our mother country. [Loud cheers.] It suits our habits and our feelings [cheers], and I don't see why the *Times* and the Anti-Colonial party should wish to deprive us of that tender appellation. Though I am prevented on this occasion from alluding to the merits or demerits of the Government, yet I may be allowed to allude to what I may call the subject matter of our administration. What have we to administer to-day? What will our successors have to administer? Because every one knows that we cannot be Ministers all the time. (Laughter.) Our Ministerial end must arrive some of these days. Well, I won't cry over it when it does come. (Laughter.) And I can say this, that so long as I can see my honorable friends