

regions, he can view everything from above ; rise clear of the prejudices of the moment, and regain the rights of truth against the clamours of the unreasoning. He will not espouse a cause because it is popular, but because he considers it just. For that, he will brave temporary defeat. "In a good cause," he says in a passage which I will quote further on, "one is not bound to succeed always." And a good cause will be always good and will triumph in the end. No one more than he has the right to appropriate the motto "*Do thy duty, come what may.*"

The oratorical talent of Mr. Taillon is supplemented by a powerful voice, sonorous and ringing. Add to that an imposing presence and a commanding figure. Mr. Taillon is not prodigal of gestures and disdains measured periods. He improvises readily and speaks with warmth and conviction. As with most orators, he should be heard rather than read.

For this last reason, and although it is customary, when one speaks of an orator, to quote from his speeches, I find it an embarrassing task to find a passage which will be able to do justice to Mr. Taillon. I prefer to select haphazard, for chance is sometimes inspired, and, in any case, does not suggest pre-arrangement or want of taste. The discussion of the Riel Question in the Quebec Legislature has not been forgotten. On one side an appeal was made to national sentiment, to patriotism even. The cause of misfortune was pleaded ; the defense of the vanquished was undertaken. On the other side, the reply was : "We are not the judges of the acts of which you complain. We have no jurisdiction. The tribunal before which you bring your case is incompetent." Mr. Taillon spoke on behalf of the Government. He had but one arm to oppose to the fiery harangues of his opponents, and that was reason. I shall quote the peroration of his speech which sums up the whole.

"One cannot but deplore such an abuse of noble sentiments. Let us reserve great measures for great causes. Let us respect great sentiments which can have nothing in common with parties, and the little affairs of political coteries. The true patriots are those who loyally relinquish certain advantages for themselves and for their party, to accomplish a higher duty, that of teaching the