

dignity. But now it is an evidence of Mr. Mowat's inherent worth and greatness that the power of his individual attributes does assert itself and impress itself on the mind of a visitor, notwithstanding his "disgracefully shabby" surroundings, and it is the force of his character, the splendour of his talents, the uprightness of his mind, which does this; for neither does the premier of Ontario derive any great aid from personal appearance. To say that Mr. Mowat is a distinguished-looking man would be a flattery which nobody would resent more sternly than Mr. Mowat himself. I have a sincere respect for Mr. Mowat, and I feel sure that if he should ever think it worth his while to read this article, he will not be offended by the candid statement that his genius and virtues derive no adventitious aid from his face and figure. These I need not describe. They are familiar to all. But what I should like to describe, if I could, is the charm, the geniality, the graceful courtesy of his manner. It is impossible to converse for ten minutes with the premier of Ontario without being convinced that you are in the presence of a true gentleman, which means ever so much more than is thought by most of those who flippantly utter that sorely-abused word, and of a true gentleman who is also a great and a good man. There is no man in public life on this continent who is more patient, more courteous, more painstaking, more thoroughly kind and affable in the transaction of business than is Mr. Mowat; and there are very few who can be said to be his equals in the possession of the admirable qualities just enumerated. With how much advantage to themselves and to the long-suffering public might not the patience, the courtesy, the earnestness, the kindness, and the affability of this veteran statesman be imitated by divers and sundry inflated personages in the public life of Canada, who have not a hundredth part either of Oliver Mowat's genius or virtue!

Much good work has been done in the "disgracefully shabby" old parliament buildings at Toronto. Much more space than is at the disposal of the present writer could be taken up with the bare enumeration of the beneficial measures which the Premier has carried successfully through the legislative assembly. The mention of no more than his introduction of the ballot in political and municipal elections; his admirable railway acts; his sagacious settlement of that irritating question of the municipal loan fund, is enough to remind us of the benefits of his wise administration has conferred