

opponents. I cannot emulate the eloquence, though I may emulate the spirit of that speech. You will not expect from me such unbounded eulogy as came fittingly from the deceased premier's colleague and successor, Sir John Thompson, and from his other colleagues to-day. Still, without endorsing all that they have asserted in praise of the chief who led them so often to victory, there are many things which a candid political opponent may consistently and truly say regarding the man whom the opposition leader described as Canada's most illustrious son, and her foremost citizen and statesman.

As Sir John Macdonald was the Conservative leader in Canadian politics, so his contemporary, Mr. Disraeli, afterwards Lord Beaconsfield, was the Conservative leader in Imperial politics; and there were striking points of resemblance between them as regards both personal appearance and otherwise. In the British House of Commons, after the death of Lord Beaconsfield, Mr. Gladstone, who had always been Mr. Disraeli's uncompromising opponent, moved, notwithstanding, that a bust to his memory should be placed in Westminster Abbey at the public expense. The principal reasons given were "the rare and splendid gifts" of the deceased, his "devoted labors in parliament and in great offices of state," and the important constitutional and other measures of his premiership, affecting as these did the condition and future of the country. Referring to these and other claims of his old opponent to public recognition, Mr. Gladstone said: "I have not a doubt that the man who for seven years sustained the office of prime minister, the man who for nearly 30 years led, either in one House or the other, a great party in this country, and the man who had so intertwined himself in the interests of the national heart as was shown on the occasion of his illness, is a man for whom the House may well do what I now call upon it to do." Now a political opponent of Sir John Macdonald can, consistently as well as truly, say of the Canadian statesman nearly all that was said of the British statesman by his great opponent, and in some respects may say more. Sir John Macdonald, like Mr. Disraeli, had "rare" and valuable gifts. He, too, had to do with great constitutional and other measures, and they were more numerous than those of Lord Beaconsfield, and more important to Canada than Lord Beaconsfield's were to the Empire. Political parties differ about the wisdom of some of Sir John's measures, and about the justice of others, but we cannot deny that, parliament after parliament, they had the support of a majority of the people's elected representatives. Then, Sir John had the confidence of a majority of the people's representatives for more than four times as long as Lord Beaconsfield had. He was leader of a great party in Canada for 40 years or more, instead 30. For 32 of these 40 years he held high offices of state, and of these 32 years he was prime minister for, not seven years only, but for more than three times seven years. He also possessed for a longer time and in a more marked manner than the British statesman the affection of his party, and of many friends who did not belong to his party or to any party. He had quite an exceptional faculty for attaching to himself his associates and his followers. He was a genial man,