

the co-operation of both the representatives of the classes and of the sovereign of the realm. Thus evenly balanced that constitutional system is perfectly adapted to a free people and especially to a young nationhood such as that of the Canadian Dominion.

McGee saw that legislative freedom guaranteed by the constitution, "broadening down from precedent to precedent" through all the vicissitudes of eight centuries, and, with his seer-like gift, he beheld it as the principal element in the accomplishment of that great millenium of peace and happiness foretold by the immortal laureate :

"When the war-drums beat no more,
And the battle-flags are furl'd,
In the Parliament of man,
The Federation of the world."

THE CONFEDERATION IDEA.

To attain that grand and general federation McGee saw that it was necessary to solidify the world-engirdling Empire of Britain, to have each section of that Empire contribute to the construction and permanent stability of the whole edifice, it was necessary to confederate the various provinces in one great bond of political wedlock, in the premier colony—the colony destined in the order of things, to become the store-house of the civilized world. And he saw in the Confederation of this Dominion the assurance of untold progress and prosperity, of boundless freedom and happiness, and in that grand consummation he beheld the most powerful example and most irrefutable argument that men of the coming generation could present, when asking for Ireland like political liberty and like legislative autonomy. Thus his principles in Canada were in perfect harmony with his aims in Ireland, and his attitude in Ireland (like that of Duffy) merely pointed towards the same ideal that loomed so grandly before him when he devoted his talents and energies to the cause of British constitutional greatness in this young country.

McGEE'S TRAGIC END.

In his early years his motives were misunderstood by the political opponents of his country's cause, and as the victim of that misunderstanding he was driven into exile. In his later years his aims were misjudged by men who had not his keen vision and he fell the victim of his own great honesty of purpose and perhaps a too frank expression of opinions, that time has fully