



Sir George Etienne Cartier

From a photograph taken while he was Prime Minister of Canada

paid," wrote Sir Charles Tupper, one of Cartier's colleagues during the Confederation crisis. And Sir John Macdonald, after referring to Cartier's courage made a similar assertion.*

The closing years of Sir George Cartier's life afford a striking example of the value of "the sickly food of popular applause" and were shrouded by a veil of sadness. In

*It is to be regretted that at the time the Dominion of Canada came into existence there should have been a serious "sin" of omission or lack of judgment in the distribution of those fitting recognitions of the services of the statesmen who had brought about the great achievement. Sir George was greatly hurt by being created a Companion of the Bath only, while a higher class in the order was given Sir John Macdonald. What bid fair to cause unpleasant friction was happily averted by Sir Charles Tupper, while visiting the Duke of Buckingham, the British Minister who succeeded the Earl of Carnarvon who had so greatly aided in the passage of the British North America Act through Parliament. He told the new Minister that Cartier was as powerful in Quebec as John A. Macdonald was in Ontario and that the French-Canadian leader was entitled to as much consideration at the hands of the Crown. Sir Charles has recorded the fact that the Queen was consulted and declared her sympathy but could do nothing at the moment as there was no vacancy in the roll of Knights Commander of the Bath. Sir Charles suggested that the difficulty could be settled by recommending Cartier for a baronetcy. This was done and the breach was healed. Sir Charles has added to his note "Cartier had a lovable personality, was a man of great ability and influence in Parliament where his loss was keenly felt."