

many who, I felt, were willing to treat the matter in a broad and Christain spirit—or to lay it aside as one that should not be debated. At any rate there would have been no end of the controversy that would have ensued as to the 'why and wherefore.'

"Permit me again, dear ———, to thank you and to wish you and yours every grace and blessing.

Yours sincerely,

Jno. S. D. Thompson,

The lesson of Sir John Thompson's life for young Catholics is that of fearlessness in the cause of truth. His was a path strewn with difficulties, but he never faltered. He was gentle as Lord Aberdeen says, but he felt that as a Catholic he had equal rights with his fellow-citizens of other creeds. He had the courage of his convictions as was evidenced when he stated at the Albany Club in Toronto shortly after assuming the Premiership, in presence of his leading supporters, nearly all of whom held different religious views from himself, "I want no toleration!" They could take him as he was or leave him. He offended no man; was genial and kind to all, but as for his faith, he not only professed it but practiced it as well, and thereby gave strength to his contemporaries and an example to the rising generation. Mention was made in the opening of these remarks of the book on his life and work, as well as to the magnificent funeral oration pronounced over him. Many have extolled his great career in verse as well, and amongst them are one of our own Canadian fellow-countrymen, Mr. A. M. Belding of St. John, N. B. whose inspiring lines are as follows :

The darkness came while yet the sun was high,
And dimmed forever that unfaltering eye,
Whose vision pierced the passing clouds of strife,
And marked in honor's paths his way of life.
No dreams of glory dwarfed his loftier aim,
To whom his country's good was more than fame;
No sheen of gold obscured his clearer view.
Who saw the right, and held the balance true.