

sembly; one could have heard the traditional pin drop in the chamber. The entire House listened with rapt attention. All necks craned towards the speaker. To the opposition who were eagerly awaiting the decision of the government it was nerve-racking. The sympathy of the occupants of the galleries swayed with the government. Several times they came near breaking out into a mad demonstration, but were deterred by the threat of the galleries being ordered cleared.

Irvine now assumed a certain breeziness of manner and dramatic vivacity of speech. Toying with a paper in one hand, casting an occasional waggish glance at Chapleau, and still with the inevitable broad and mirthless smile on his face, he proceeded: "I hold in my hand a resolution which I wish to submit to this honorable house. It runs as follows: "That this House approves the economical policies of the government and has complete confidence, etc." This resolution was carried amid much applause by a majority of four votes. In the solution of this snarl, as well as many others, Irvine gave proof that he was a Saul among the politicians of his day. When Chapleau became Prime Minister he hastened to shelve Irvine by giving him the Judgeship of the Admiralty Court. He was a disappointed man, with many unfulfilled aspirations through the jealousy of rivals. His admirers greatly regretted his act, for they believed more signal honors awaited him in politics. Even to this day, among the legal lights and politicians of Quebec, his name awakens throbs of interest, and they often repeat anecdotes and incidents in which he figured, proclaiming him a man of exceptional and remarkable

parts and a phenomenally astute lawyer and politician.

I was Irvine's family physician for many years, in the old days, and my relations—personal and professional—with him were of the pleasantest. I never think of him even to-day without the kindest feelings welling up in my heart. The last time I saw Irvine was in July, 1896, I believe, when I was on a visit from Boston to this city. I was pained to notice the lines of care and age and worry about his face; and the twin sun centres of the grey-blue eyes lacked their former keenness. His speculative mining ventures which have since prospered wonderfully, were then a heavy load to carry. When the wheel of fortune turned, it was too late for him to profit by it. His mind, however, was still alert and bright. It was at the Garrison Club I met him, and when I referred to the memorable evening in the House which I have attempted to describe above, I noticed quiet twinkles in his eyes. Any allusion to the political contests and conflicts, the sparkling clashes and the sharp thrusts between him and his old enemy was like the smell of powder to an old war horse. His sands of life were then fast running out, and it was but a short time after our interview, on the 24th February following, that this very clever politician and jurisconsult answered *Adsum* to the final roll call. Given a wider field and scope, George Irvine would have shone illustriously with the best talent of the Dominion. He had many admirers and some depreciators, but he was not a personality towards whom one could feel indifference! Few were more resourceful; he could make brilliant almost any event, and become its central figure!