

premier of Canada since confederation. Great as were his attainments in the law he possessed most of the qualities which would have made him equally successful in any other profession—an acute intellect, orderly arrangement and lucid exposition of ideas, immense application and capacity for work, with careful attention to the details of it. If he did not satisfy the popular notion of a brilliant orator it was rather that he cared little for that sort of popularity, or had no time to cultivate the flowers of rhetoric. But as an argumentative and persuasive speaker he was excelled by few either in this country or among the members of the English bar. His style of pleading was admirably clear and never failed to engage the attention of the Court he was addressing. With a jury he had perhaps less weight, though always making a favorable impression. We once had an opportunity of contrasting his style with that of the late Sir John Rose. It was a case tried with a special jury—the last occasion, we think, on which Mr. Rose appeared in a jury action. The case had no sensational feature whatever: the jury had merely to determine certain questions of fact. But Mr. Rose managed to develop considerable enthusiasm and to get into a warm struggle with the presiding judge over some of his rulings. There was no responsive warmth on Mr. Abbott's side; he remained impassive—wisely considering perhaps that the case was better left in the hands of the judge. The jury, however, gave the verdict to Mr. Rose.

As mayor of Montreal a few years ago, and as leader for the Government in the Senate shortly afterwards, Mr. Abbott acquitted himself wonderfully well, showing a mastery of every question that came up, however intricate or troublesome. Then, later, when the sudden removal of Sir John Macdonald left the conservative party for a time without an acknowledged leader, he accepted the difficult position of premier, and was marvelously successful in dealing with the problems which present themselves in the government of a rapidly growing country. His intense application to this task, at an age when physical strength was on the decline, undoubtedly exhausted his remaining forces and probably shortened his life.

When Mr. Abbott was elected mayor of Montreal half a dozen years ago we remarked (vol. 10, p. 73) that he would have been more appropriately placed as the chief justice of a high appellate court. Few anticipated at that time that he would yet be sum-