

APPENDIX XIII

See p. 690

'And what applies to the unity of races equally applies to the unity of creeds. A fervently religious man himself, he believed that whatever religion a man possessed was that for which he alone, and no other, was responsible, and he was willing to accord to all the same religious liberty which he claimed for himself; and so, during his whole career in Ontario, he seemed to bear in mind the fact that minorities had their rights as well as majorities, and that all classes of Her Majesty's subjects, so far as he was concerned, should share equally in the advantages of Government. This view, Sir, gives us great satisfaction. Those of us who sat beside him, and those who took a little of their inspiration from him, and perhaps should have taken more, feel with him that the future of this country is bound up in the unity of the provinces and in the suppression of those racial and religious differences which are always subversive of public character and detrimental to the public weal.

'And, lastly, I shall say of the distinguished statesman that he was conspicuous to those who knew him intimately as a man of exceeding great strength of character. Under that mild exterior there was the force of a giant. That soft and gentle grip of the hand at times was a grip of steel. That smile, scarcely ever absent, represented a resolute heart, filled—always filled—when necessary, with determination and courage. He could ridicule without malice, as we know; he could argue without resentment.