

great public man; we maintain that without them he would have been shorn of half his greatness.

This exceptionally brilliant and highly honourable career, measured by years, is a disappointment; judged by the work performed, it may be said to embrace a lengthened span, for, according to the words of Wisdom :

"Venerable old age is not that of long time, nor counted by the number of years; but the understanding of a man is grey hairs; and a spotless life is old age." (Wisdom iv. 8, 9).

In this true sense, then, although taken away in his prime, Sir John Thompson filled up by his good deeds and a spotless life, more than the allotted three-score and ten. Some will say, as some have said, that had he not entered on the arena of Dominion politics he might have lived yet for many years. True; and the soldiers who lost their lives in defending their country might have lived to extreme old age had they remained in the quiet retirement of their homes, and buried their courage and their patriotism in some obscure potato-patch. But we do not live for ourselves alone; man has duties towards society, and those to whom the Creator has been lavish of his gifts have a responsibility for their right use corresponding to their measure. Sir John knew and recognized this; and though personally averse to the turmoil of public life, he sacrificed his feelings at the call of duty. Who of his friends could wish it to have been otherwise? Who of them would purchase for him a few uneventful years of life at the cost of his achievements during the past nine years? It is needless to say I am speaking in no partisan sense when I ask, Who would wish to deprive Canadian public life of the noble and