

legislature of Upper Canada before 1840, and of the legislature of United Canada, prime minister of the first Liberal-Conservative ministry which came into existence on the fall of the Hincks-Morin Government in 1854, a knight bachelor, a baronet, an aide-de-camp of the Queen, and speaker of the legislative council.

It is an interesting fact, on which I may for one instant dwell, that it was actually during his administration that the Toryism of old times—of the days of the rebellion, of the family compact, of the Metcalfe regime—entirely disappeared and gave place to that more progressive spirit which called itself Liberal-Conservative, and settled the vexatious questions of the Clergy Reserves, and the Seigniorial Tenure, which had so long perplexed and even weakened the Reform Governments, which preceded the new political movement the necessity of which was at once recognized by the prescient mind of Sir John Macdonald.

Memory must always cling to the mansion which is so interesting a feature of the beautiful park, which, from this day, becomes a pleasure ground of the city of Hamilton. Most of you know better than I that the name of Dundurn is a memorial of the old home of Sir Allan's family at the head of Loch Earn in the picturesque Scotch province of Perth, so famous for its varied landscape of high hills, romantic passes, wildly leaping cataracts, and long stretches of luxuriant level meadows in the valleys. The scenery of old Gore is not so varied as that of Sir Allan's ancestral county of Perth, and yet he may have found in the heights of Burlington, in the strath of Dundas, and in the smiling bay beyond, some features which recalled his father's memories of the hills and waters of Loch Earn.

I well remember the year 1856—one famous in Canadian political annals—when Sir Allan MacNab closed his political career as leader of the Liberal-Conservative party. Looking down from the reporters' gallery of the old Parliament House in Front street, Toronto, I saw him, wracked by the disease to which he had long been subject and all swathed in flannel, carried into the chamber of the assembly where he was placed in a chair. He was permitted to speak from his seat when he practically made his farewell to the House where he had been for so many years a political force. The party with which he was allied had felt that the time had come for placing at its head a much stronger man, one more equal to the new conditions of political life, Mr. John A. Macdonald, destined from that time to become the most conspicuous figure in the public life of British North America. But Sir Allan was not prepared to retire from the leadership without a remonstrance on his deposition; and I can still recollect the sympathy with which his tremulous accents were received by the House, when he deprecated a condemnation