

been an entire absence of the display of anything like adverse political or personal feeling, and that some of the most cordial and affecting tributes to his memory had come from pens of gentlemen who were not only known to have been politically opposed to Mr. McGee, but who could scarcely be said to be on terms of personal friendship with him. It was not for him to add to these numerous tributes to the memory and services of Mr. McGee. He would say, however, that it had been admitted without a dissenting voice that among the chief characteristics of the man were his personal disinterestedness, his entire lack of selfishness, and his kindly generosity; that generosity which was alike characteristic of his country and the man himself had left his family unprovided for; and in the circumstances under which he had fallen, it became the duty of the country to come to the assistance of those who had been bereft of their natural support, so far as pecuniary consolation could be of any value. Mr. McGee might have been up to the period of his death in high political position. He might have continued a member of the Government, but with that disinterestedness of which he had spoken, for the purpose of fairly attaining the Union, he had set aside his own claims and pretensions. In thus alluding to the sacrifice Mr. McGee had made for the sake of the Union, which he loved so well, it would be wrong in him to make a single remark that could provoke discussion. He would say, however, that Mr. McGee earnestly believed that in the Union of the British North American Colonies there was a great future for British America as a nation under the British flag, and with that earnestness which was his great characteristic he threw himself into the work and laboured for the cause uninterruptedly, zealously and continuously, until it was carried out. But while he showed the greatest disinterestedness so far as he himself was concerned, he did not forget the interests with which he felt himself specially charged, the interests of his co-religionists, and the only stipulation he made when he withdrew from the position of Minister, or rather the only expression of opinion with which he accompanied his withdrawal was that he urged upon him (Sir John A. Macdonald) the propriety and expediency of having his countrymen and co-religionists represented in the Cabinet by one of its members being an Irish Roman Catholic. In giving up his position in the Ministry he knew that he would be obliged to support his family by his

[Sir John A. Macdonald (Kingston).]

every-day labour, and he set himself most manfully to the task. On the very day that he was cut off, he was labouring at his desk in the path he found open to him, with this view, that of honest, industrious literary pursuits, and turning to his next neighbour he held up the manuscript and said, "There is my bread." He had earned a high position in literary circles, and his labour in that way would no doubt have enabled him to earn for himself and his family a respectable subsistence, and to increase the reputation he had earned; but he had been cut down in his prime, and had left his family thrown upon the wide world, or rather in the language of His Excellency, thrown on the justice and liberality of Parliament. That justice he was assured would not be denied, and that liberality would be extended to those he had left behind, although not with an unnecessarily lavish hand. The resolutions, he believed, would commend themselves to this House as at once marking the sense of Parliament of the private and public virtues of Mr. McGee, and at the same time affording a sufficient, but not extravagant, contribution towards the respectable support and sustenance of his widow and family. To the widow the sorrowful sense of her loss would remain, but it would be some comfort to her to feel that the merits of her deceased husband had been so felt and acknowledged by the Parliament of the country, that they had found it to be their bounden duty to make a suitable provision for his widow and for his and her children.

Hon. Mr. Johnson supported the resolution, paying a high compliment to Mr. McGee's private qualities, and also to his great public services, in softening the asperities which interfered with the welfare of the Union which he had served more than any other statesman. He (Mr. Johnson) had long known Mr. McGee personally and politically, and thought it fitting to pay this tribute to his memory, and to express his confidence that his constituents would be unanimously ready to endorse his action in support of the resolution.

Hon. Mr. Gray, though not having possessed the advantage of so close a personal intimacy with Mr. McGee, thought it not improper that he should bear witness in his place there to his deep admiration for the patriotic career of that gentleman, to whom the public owed so large a debt of gratitude as an earnest and untiring advocate of Confederation. Drawing a distinction between the assassination of the