

to Parliament in 1861, for Lambton; and he had no sooner taken his place in the House than he attracted attention. His style of parliamentary debate was unusual, but it was very acceptable. There was no bluster, no unsupported assertion, no freaks of blind passion, but every conclusion was reasoned from plainly established grounds, in the most lucid, fair and incisive language. Perhaps there was no other member in the House then—or since—whose utterances revealed so much patient and accurate research; and the quality, this "capacity for taking trouble," as Carlyle has phrased it, was characteristic of his whole subsequent career. He favoured Confederation, but had little sympathy with the coalition, and refused the office of the Presidency of the Council upon the retirement of George Brown from the extemporized administration. From the union of 1867 till 1873, he was leader of the Reform party in the House of Commons, and in the last named year was placed at the head of the entire Liberal party of the Dominion. On the 5th November, 1873, upon the resignation of Sir John Macdonald, he was called upon by Lord Dufferin to form an administration. The administration came upon the scene when the stars had taken an evil course. A period of general depression had fallen upon the commerce of the civilized world, and Canada had to bear her burthen of the misfortune. As an administrator, Mr. Mackenzie was conscientious, and looking calmly now at all the acts of his career, there is not one deed of his that can be stamped with reproach. So faithfully did he do his duty, so anxious was he to be master of the details of his double department—railways and canals and public works—that his health gave way under the strain. Meanwhile times were going from bad to worse; expenditure, unavoidably, was greater than income, and labour, like labour the world over, was in a bad way. Then came the promise of prosperity from Sir John's party if the people would vote for a national policy, and, captivated by the glittering prospect, the constituencies left Mr. Mackenzie. The Conservatives came to power, and nearly doubled the taxes; and now have deficits, real and promised, that must equal those of the *régime* of Mr. Mackenzie, when universal trade was paralyzed. Mr. Mackenzie is president of the Sovereign Fire Insurance Company, of the North American Life Insurance Company, and is a director of the Building and Loan Association. He was major of the 27th Lambton battalion up to October, 1874, when he resigned. He was a member of the Executive council and treasurer of Ontario in Mr. Blake's administration, from the 21st of December, 1871, until October, 1872, when he retired. As a private member, he is author of several important mea-

asures, viz.: the act amending the assessment act of U. C., 1863; that consolidating and amending the acts relating to the assessment of property, U. C., 1866; and the highly useful measure for providing means of egress from public buildings, 1866. As chairman of committee on municipal and assessment laws, 1866, he wrote and framed the greater part of the general act on municipal corporations, etc. All the measures of his government, including the enactment of a stringent election law, with the trial of election petitions by judges, and vote by ballot, and the abolition of the real estate qualification of members; the better administration of penitentiaries; the enactment of the marine telegraph law, which virtually abolished the monopoly of the cable company; the establishment of a Dominion military college, and the improvement of the militia system; the enlargement of the canals; the permanent organization of the civil service; the establishment of a supreme court for the Dominion; the reduction of postage to and from the United States; the free delivery of postal matter in cities and towns; the opening of direct mail communication with the West Indies; the construction of a trans-continental telegraph line; the better administration of government railways; an improved copyright law; the adoption of a proposed route for the Pacific railway; the opening of negotiations, conducted on our behalf by our own delegate in person, between Canada and the United States; for the establishment of an equitable reciprocity treaty between the two countries; a new insolvent law; the establishment of a territorial government for the great North-West; and the temperance act (Scott Act). These have all been more or less moulded and directed by Mr. Mackenzie. In addition, two very important questions, which for some time agitated the public mind and threatened the gravest complications—the Manitoba amnesty and the New Brunswick school questions—were satisfactorily adjusted during his administration. He has always held those political principles—which by some in England may be considered peculiar—of the universal brotherhood of man, no matter in what rank of life may have been his origin. He has believed, and still believes, in the extinction of all class legislation, and of all legislation that tends to promote any body or class of men, because they belong to a body or class,—to a higher position politically than any other class in the country. In our great colonies, while no fault is found with the political organization of the mother country, or that of any other country, we take our stand simply on the ground that every man is equal in the eye of the law, and has the same opportunity, by exercising the talents with which God has blessed him, of