



SIR JOHN'S STUDY AT EARNSCLIFFE.

legislation, and in those changes found necessary for the first few years after the passage of the first Act, and his personal influence was always strongly exerted in favour of the most liberal treatment to that great national road.

The year 1885 was a stormy one in the history of the country, and must have been an extremely trying one for the Premier, then seventy years of age. The uncalled for rebellion of the half-breeds and Indians—the sufferings of the volunteers *en route* to the scene of disturbance—the anxious days and nights waiting for news from the front—and, above all, the hostile attitude assumed by a large number of our French fellow-citizens when Riel was executed, were enough to severely tax the energy and tact of a man twenty-five years his junior. But he fought through it all with marked success to his policy; and, as an offset, his heart must have been gladdened at the sight of the patient endurance of our Canadian militia in the face of severe hardship and their unquestioned valour when before the enemy. The Riel issue is now a dead one, but the personal abuse Sir John then received from ignorant demagogues must have been a severe blow to his genial and kindly nature.

In 1887 he again appealed to the country on the strength of his financial and North-Western policy, and was returned to power with a large majority. Those matters are now but little questioned by the great majority of voters; the question of unlimited reciprocity with the United States has since then rapidly come to the front, and has brought with it issues, the discussion of which has absorbed much attention. These questions, bearing on Canada's national and political future, have brought from Sir John renewed expressions of confidence in British connection as our best policy.

Of honours and marks of distinction of minor note, he has received a large number during the last thirty years of his life. In 1865 he was

created a D.C.L. (hon.) of Oxford, and subsequently an L.L.D. of Queen's University, Kingston, of McGill University, Montreal, and of Trinity College, Toronto, as well as D.C.L. from the latter institution. In July, 1867, he was made a Knight Commander (civil) of the Bath, and in 1884 advanced to the grade of Grand Cross in the same distinguished order; in 1872 as Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Order of Isabella of Spain, and in the same year as member of Her Majesty's Privy Council. He has been a Queen's counsel since 1846.

In this brief sketch we have attempted to touch on some of the principal points of the late Premier's life down to recent times. Of the particulars of his last illness, death and funeral ceremonies, we have written fully on another page.

[IN MEMORIAM.]

Sir John A. Macdonald.

Cold is the hand which grasped a people's fate,
At rest the master brain whose mighty ken—
Subtle in council, king-like in debate—
So dwarfed the efforts of his fellow men.

And as a child who knows its first of grief,
Unreassuring and hopeless in its woe,
The nation mourns her best beloved chief,
Prostrate and broken neath the cruel blow.

He saw her birth, he led her falt'ring feet,
Rough hewn he found her, perfect now she stands,
The grand creation of his life complete,
The envy and the peer of older lands.
Guard well the heritage—his great intent—
Be, Canada, his lasting monument.

Winnipeg.

FRANK J. CLARKE.

Literary and Personal Notes.

D. G. Ritchie, instructor in Oxford University, has contributed a very interesting article on the teaching of Political Science in that institution to the current number of the "Annals" of the American Academy of Political and Social Science. Incidentally he gives the clearest view of the actual working organization of the great English university that has been presented to the American public.

For the past three years Mr. E. B. Biggar, of Montreal, has been gathering anecdotes and facts relating to Sir John Macdonald, and the result is an anecdotal life of Sir John, which will be issued in a short time. Before going to press Mr. Biggar will be glad to receive any authentic anecdotes or reminiscences on the subject that have not yet appeared in print. Mr. Biggar's address is the Fraser Building, Montreal.

Under the title of "Man and the Glacial Period," Prof. G. Frederick Wright will contribute to "The Popular Science Monthly" for July a record of the important facts that have come to light in the last two years bearing upon the connection of man with the ice age in North America. The paper will be illustrated.

Mr. Kipling on "San Francisco."

You take a train which pulls up the middle of the street (it killed two people the day before yesterday, being unbraked and driven absolutely regardless of consequences), and you pull up somewhere at the back of the city on the Pacific beach. Originally the cliffs and their approaches must have been pretty, but they have been so carefully defiled with advertisements that they are now one big blistered abomination. A hundred yards from the shore stood a big rock covered with the carcasses of the sleek sea beasts who roared and rolled and wallowed in the spouting surges. No bold man had painted the creatures sky-blue or advertised newspapers on their backs, wherefore they did not match the landscape, which was chiefly boarding. Some day, perhaps, whatever sort of government we may obtain in this country will make a restoration of the place and keep it clean and neat. At present the sovereign people, of whom I have heard so much already, are vending cherries and painting the virtues of "Little Bile Beans" all over it.

An eminent surgeon says that with four cuts and a few stitches he can alter a man's face so his own mother would not know him. Any Montreal daily newspaper can do that with only one cut.