

ceptance of office, he resigned the directorate of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, believing it to be incompatible with his position in the Government.

It is as yet too soon to attempt to deal with Mr. Abbott's career as Prime Minister of the Dominion. Suffice it to say that his Government emerged from the unprecedented session of 1891 with the loss of one Minister, but otherwise the party remained as united and as strong as when he assumed its direction. He has taken a stand against the frauds and irregularities which were developed or pointed at by the proceedings of committees during the session, and has laboured earnestly with his colleagues in carrying out the declaration which he took an early opportunity of making from his place in the Senate, that the offenders should be sought out and punished, "be they high or low, great or small." Mr. Abbott is steadily winning the confidence of the people, as a consistent, determined, and indefatigable administrator. It was very generally supposed that, on the death of Sir John Macdonald, chaos would follow, and many people said: "After him, the deluge." But the country has been surprised to find the danger averted, and the business of the State firmly and steadily proceeded with, notwithstanding the superhuman efforts of the opponents of the Government to break it down by every conceivable means. That this should have been the result of the dreaded shock of the death of the late Premier has been a source of much pride to Mr. Abbott's friends and of relief to the party.

It is a somewhat invidious task to endeavour to analyze the character of a man who is still with us; but it may not be uninteresting to remark upon some of the leading features of Mr. Abbott's mental constitution, which have been uniformly manifested throughout his career. One of his prominent characteristics is his strong sense of justice and a corresponding sense of injustice or oppression. Remarkable for his dislike of litigation, of which grateful clients, who have been dissuaded from cost by lawsuits, frequently remind him, no sooner was he satisfied that injustice was being done or oppression practised, than, with intense concentration of energy, he would throw himself into the case, and press it to the end with indomitable tenacity. And it was frequently remarked of him that the poorer and more defenceless the client was, the more determined and persistent was the struggle made for him. To his great power of concentration,