

that was rung out clear and distinct in 1878 has again been rung out in clear and distinct tones, and is the harbinger of as magnificent a victory in 1896 as that achieved by the great Liberal-Conservative party in 1878. That is what Mr. Murray meant when he spoke of the "great emergency."

Now, Mr. Murray said, and I did not quite understand what he meant, that I had come down to Cape Breton to gratify my ambition. I do not think that the record of my life during the past 10 years will show that I have been ambitious. I have told you that when I was asked to take the leadership of the Liberal-Conservative party, although I was convinced that it would soon be led to victory, I refused. What more? In 1883 I accepted the office of High Commissioner for Canada, because I felt, and Sir John A. Macdonald felt, that the Dominion of Canada had reached a position in which it was of the utmost importance that a man well acquainted with the public affairs of Canada should represent this country at the Court of St. James in London. My predecessor, Sir Alexander Galt, was such a man. He was a man of great ability and of commanding political presence, and had discharged his duties with great ability and with great advantage to the country. But he refused to remain there any longer. He said that the salary of \$11,000, that is, \$10,000 salary and \$1,000 for expenses, was not sufficient to enable him to live in a suitable manner in the city of London, and he refused to remain there because the Government would not increase the salary. Having been brought up in a more economical school than Sir Alexander Galt, I thought that I could make both ends meet on that salary; and I have not heard any person say, not even the strongest opponent who visited London,—that he has failed to receive attention; because I have been always ready to give my attention to every man, no matter whether he was a Liberal or a Conservative. The strongest Liberals in the country will bear testimony to my readiness to go no further than to ask whether a man was a Canadian, and if he was, he could command anything in my power, and I am proud to know that to-day I enjoy the confidence and personal regard of the most distinguished members of the Liberal party. (Hear, hear.)

Now, I came back in the year 1886, and I will tell you why this unsuccessful politician came back to Canada. Sir John A. Macdonald did me the honour to write this letter to me on the 26th December, 1886. He did not exactly have the opinions that the "Chronicle" seems to have imbibed that I was a political failure. He says:

On the Train, 20th December, 1886.
My Dear Tupper,—I am on my way back to Ottawa after a successful tour in western Ontario. We have made a very good impression and I think will hold our own in the province. We have, however, lost nearly the whole Catholic vote by the course of the "Mail," and this course has

had a prejudicial effect, not only in Ontario, but throughout the Dominion, and has therefore introduced a great element of uncertainty in a good many constituencies.

In Nova Scotia the outlook is bad, and the only hope of our holding our own there is your immediate return and vigorous action. It may be necessary that you should, even if only for a little time, return to the Cabinet. Moreover, I know, would easily make way for you. Now, the responsibility on you is very great, for should any disaster arise, because of your not coming out, the whole blame will be thrown upon you.

I see that Anglin is now starting it in Nova Scotia. I send you an extract from a condensed report of his remarks, which appeared in the Montreal "Gazette." This is a taking programme for the maritime provinces, and has to be met, and no one can do it but yourself. But enough of Dominion politics.

I cannot, in conclusion, too strongly press upon you the absolute necessity of your coming out at once, and do not like to contemplate the evil consequence of your declining to do so.

I shall enable you the time for holding our election the moment it is settled.

Believe me, yours faithfully,

(Signed) JOHN A. MACDONALD.

The Hon. Sir Charles Tupper, G.C.M.G.

That, gentlemen, is the reason why I resigned the office of High Commissioner of Canada, at that time, and came back to place my services at the disposal of the great leader of the Liberal-Conservative party and I dare say you know that our joint efforts in this country were not unsuccessful. Anglin has had the proud satisfaction of seeing the banner of the Liberal-Conservative party borne triumphantly to victory, as, I trust, at some distant day it will again. (Applause.) Mr. Murray, no doubt, has been studying that very unreliable organ of his party, the "Morning Chronicle," and has come to the conclusion that I would sacrifice anything to satisfy my wild ambition. I am here to say to you to-night, for we are a family party and may exchange confidences, that it was never my wish at any hour of my life to be Prime Minister of Canada. (A voice.) We want you there, Sir Charles. (Applause.) Gentlemen, I will tell you why. I felt that no man knew the late Sir John A. Macdonald better than I did, and no one recognized more strongly or more unquestionably than I did that no man in the wide Dominion of Canada could compare with him for that position. I felt that so long as his life and energy enabled him to fill that position, a position so high and so great that it might be coveted by any statesman in the world, it would be treason to Canada for any one to think of taking the helm from one who had shown such wonderful ability to steer the ship of state as he had. Sir John A. Macdonald died in 1891, after a very desperate electoral struggle which we had made in this country to maintain the ascendancy of Liberal-Conservative principles. I do not hesitate to say that he was animated, as I was, by the conviction that existence of British institutions was at stake, and by the