

character. He united to the rarest intellectual gifts, the highest moral qualities, and ruled men's minds both by his ability and his uprightness. Honourable, he was the soul of honour. His word was his bond, given slowly, it is true, but sacredly kept. His bitterest opponents, and he had many, willingly acknowledge he possessed this special trait. His honesty of purpose, and purity of motive, were never questioned. In the smaller field of provincial politics, on the bench of his native province, in the stormy arena of federal warfare, not the shadow of a reflection has been cast upon his reputation. No one can point to a blot on his record. No one can say his hands were stained with bribes given or received. Not one act of political dishonesty can be laid to his charge. Like Gladstone, he laid down his mandate silver clean, for he possessed that purity which no worldliness deadened and no hypocrisy soiled. "Who can help admiring such a career? Who can repress a feeling of pride when he reflects that no principle was sacrificed, no tarnish incurred in its successful prosecution? We may legitimately rejoice that we have an ideal worthy of imitation, and that we have a country sufficiently democratic, in the best sense, and broad and enlightened enough to be the theatre for such an achievement." Canadians can look back with pardonable pride upon such a record. He is one of those grand examples which supply history with invaluable lessons of encouragement and instruction.

As an evidence of his high-principled motives a bitter opponent remarked, when a certain measure was about to be brought before the House: "If Sir John thinks it is right he will support it, and if he thinks it is wrong all the force that can be brought to bear upon him will not make him withdraw his opposition to it." It is a man of this kind the country can ill afford to lose—a man who would rather lose place and prestige than desert the right.

"Who never sold the truth to serve the hour,
Nor paltered with Eternal God for power."

A temperance delegation interviewed him once. He was always known to be a friend of temperance and morality, but he would not humbug his petitioners. Here is his answer: "I could humbug

you if I wished, but I have too much respect for myself to do that, and I must inform you that there are grave difficulties in the way of immediate legislation such as you desire." It was a straightforward answer, and this is the compliment one of the delegates afterwards paid him: "The premier is a hard man to get an answer out of, but once it is given it will be worth something."

His practice was not to please by sweet words, but to satisfy by candour and straightforwardness, which in the end won golden opinions. He always left the impression on his audience, that what he said he meant. To know him was to respect him, and the more he was known the more deeply his qualities impressed themselves. Yet he was not self-opinionated, nor contracted in his views. A great man can be neither one nor the other. His sympathies were broad and liberal, and he had a thorough contempt for prejudice or narrowness of view. His public acts exhibit that characteristic. He had to deal with many delicate matters, where his own political and religious opinions might colour his judgment, but he always displayed a breadth of view and an impartial purpose that challenge applause. These characteristics shew why he had such universal admiration, why we can point to him as illustrious among colonial statesmen, why he has a claim upon the homage of his country, indeed upon the sympathy of the English race.

We may be considered as being too laudatory. Well, let others speak. From the Queen downwards have come many warm and eloquent tributes. Lord Ripon, Secretary of State for the Colonies, found the Canadian premier "a man of untarnished honour, possessing statesman-like qualities of a high order." Lord Jersey, the Imperial delegate to the Ottawa Conference, had learned to like him and said: "while the principles which he followed will not die with him, every true member of the British Empire must deeply lament the loss of so great a man." Lord Chief Justice Russell, associated with him on the Behring Sea case, thus appreciated his abilities: "From the beginning I was greatly impressed by his broad good sense, and the eminently judicial character of his mind." Lord Hannen, his associate