

It is, however, one thing to look for a result and another thing to find it. Strange to say, although young men in the United Kingdom do not begin to take a lively interest in public questions for fully five years later than their Canadian fellow-subjects, and for fully ten years later than their American cousins (who enter on the comparative study of ward politics at the mature age of twelve years or so), they are, on the whole, when the right time comes, quite as well able to judge intelligently public issues as are these more precocious students. I venture to think, too, that not only do young Englishmen, Scotchmen, and Irishmen come at the start to conclusions as intelligent as do their transatlantic brethren, but that, speaking generally, they ultimately rise to a much higher level of culture and power of government. Hence it has been always considered a compliment to a Colonial or American statesman to compare him to an Imperial Minister. And, from this point of view, many thought it was a notable honour for Sir John Macdonald to be compared, as he occasionally is still, to the illustrious Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield. It is paying a still higher compliment to the Canadian Premier to assert that the comparison is honourable to both.

There are certainly strong points of resemblance in the lives and character of these extraordinary men, though one cannot establish as striking a parallel as some enthusiasts would wish; nor is it unfortunate for Sir John Macdonald that his career has not been an exact counterpart of Disraeli's. He thereby escapes the reproach of one or two glaring inconsistencies and of a certain grotesque egotism with which Beaconsfield is fairly chargeable. On the other hand, a measure of greatness must be conceded in one direction to the illustrious Jew which the illustrious Scotchman does not share. Over and above his greatness as a statesman, Lord Beaconsfield was great as an author; and, to quote his own words in the introductory notice to his father's work, "Curiosities of Literature": "An author may influence the fortunes of the world to as great an extent as a statesman or a warrior; and the deeds and performances, by which this influence is created and exercised, may rank in their interest and importance with the decisions of great congresses, or the skilful valour of a memorable field." There are, of course,