

# SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD

AT

## MONTREAL.

*SPEECH DELIVERED AT THE WHITE BANQUET,*

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1875.

The following speech by the Right Hon. Sir John Macdonald was delivered at a banquet given by the Conservatives of Montreal to Mr. Thomas White, Jr., on Wednesday evening, the 24th of November last. The hall was beautifully decorated with flags, the platform being draped with national emblems. In front of it was a dais occupied by the guests and leading gentlemen present. Mr. John McTavish presided. On his right hand were seated Mr. Thomas White, the guest of the evening, the Hon. C. Tupper, Andrew Robertson, Hon. J. L. Beaudry, A. Desjardins, M.P., Hugh McLennon, Richard White, A. M. Delisle, Walter Shanley, M. H. Gault, H. J. Routh, and Col. A. A. Stevenson. On the left of the chairman were the Right Hon. Sir John Macdonald, R. Masson, Hon. Thos. Ryan, John Hope, Hon. Peter Mitchell, Rev. Mr. Black, John Crawford, A. Lacoste, A. Guimet, M.P., David Law, John Kerry and David Sinclair. The Vice-Chairs were occupied by Messrs. Ogilvie, Mousseau, McGavran and Bulmer. About three hundred guests were present.

The CHAIRMAN having proposed "HER MAJESTY'S LOYAL OPPOSITION,"

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR JOHN MACDONALD rising to reply, was received with enthusiastic cheering, renewed again and again. The welcome was unprecedented in heartiness. When the applause had ceased, Sir John said:—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I, one of Her Majesty's loyal Opposition (cheers), have come from Toronto to join in this magnificent demonstration in favor of my friend—my political and personal friend—Mr. White. (Cheers.) I feel that it was due to him, due to the sacrifices he has made, due to the stand he has taken, due to the position he has attained, to testify my respect as one of the old members of the Conservative Party. (Cheers.) But while it was due to him, it is also a great gratification to myself. I long in public life have watched the course of Mr. White. I first knew him when, at Peterborough, with all the earnestness and enthusiasm of youth, he conducted one of the most able country newspapers that existed in Canada. I have seen his course ever since. It has been a truly Conservative course, not merely, gentlemen, in the party sense of the word, but in the higher patriotic sense, Conservative in thought, Conservative in feeling, Conservative in advocating the connection with the mother country—that grand old country from which we all hail. (Cheers.) I have watched his progress in life, and I find him now with not less earnestness, with not less enthusiasm, but with matured mind and with the experience that he has gained by long, intelligent, and vigilant observation of public affairs, now standing one of the first journalists in Canada (enthusiastic cheers), worthy of this demonstration, and worthy of the exertions which have been made for him by the true electors of Western Montreal. It is