

Mr. de Boucherville, however, did not long wish to continue to support a burden, so heavy, especially at his age. From the moment that his probable retirement began to be talked of, public opinion designated Mr. Taillon as his successor.

Without being guilty of indiscretion, the author, who can vouch for the fact, may be permitted to say that Mr. Taillon did not seek the high position, that it was almost thrust upon him, and that he only accepted it in deference to the unanimous wish of the Conservative party. Mr. Taillon, then, became Prime Minister of the Province of Quebec, in December, 1894. He is Prime Minister to-day, and without trespassing upon the domain of politics, I can vouch for the fact that he possesses the confidence, not only of his party, but also of those men who, affiliated to no particular political party, are content to judge governments, like men, by their works. The present prime minister is, in fact, a man, whose honesty is above all suspicion, whose disinterestedness borders on the scrupulous, and who reckons not personal sacrifices when duty is in question. Mr. Taillon could have acquired an honourable fortune at the Bar; he is one of those men to whom clients would never be wanting, because such men know how to inspire confidence. And yet, I do not hesitate to affirm that Mr. Taillon is to-day a poor man. If to sacrifice one's self for one's country; to neglect one's affairs for those of one's country, is patriotism, surely men who, like Mr. Taillon, make this sacrifice unhesitatingly, are patriots worthy of all praise.

Again, if this disinterestedness were rewarded—— Ah! Public life! How many men with generous ambition, with nobility of character, has it filled with enthusiasm at the outset of their careers, and disgusted, before they had yet been able to give to the public service the full extent of their abilities. Politics, a war more merciless than that carried on by shot and shell. It is a field of battle where no quarter is given where to the light of day are exposed, all the weaknesses, all the failings, true, supposed or even manufactured of whole cloth, of the opponent. Should one be astonished, then, if, in certain moments, the public man, to whom nothing appears to be left to desire, who is an object of adoration to his friends, of enthusiasm to his partisans, who is listened to with an