

In 1821, the first year of his majority, Mr. Stanley entered the House of Commons as member for the borough of Stockbridge; but he did not make his maiden speech until three years later; and then the subject was one of local import; but such were the merits of his first oratorical effort, that Sir James Mackintosh, who followed him in the debate, devoted the greater part of his speech, as reported in *Hansard*, to extolling the performance. "No man," he said, "could have witnessed with greater satisfaction than himself an accession to the talents of the House, which was calculated to give lustre to its character and strengthen its influence; and this was more particularly a subject of satisfaction to him when he reflected that these talents were likely to be employed in supporting principles which he conscientiously believed to be most beneficial to the country." Mr. Stanley made a still more striking display of oratorical power in speaking somewhat later on a motion of Joseph Hume's with regard to the Irish Church. At the same time this speech did not so well please his political friends, inasmuch as he declared himself unable to support Hume's proposition, which declared "that it is expedient to inquire whether the present Church Establishment in Ireland be not more than commensurate to the service to be performed, both as regards the number of persons employed and the incomes they receive." It is interesting to note that the last public act of Lord Derby was to protest vehemently against a measure which, when presented to him in the bud five-and-forty years before, it was almost his first public act to resist.

Mr. Stanley first took office in Lord Goderich's administration as Under-Secretary for the Colonies. At this time he represented Preston, a "pocket borough" of his grandfather's, but from his unconciliatory disposition, and his refusal to subscribe to the Preston races,—a curious freak on his part,—the Prestonians rejected him and elected Mr. Hunt in his stead. A place was made for him at Windsor by the retirement of Sir H. Vivian, and he continued to represent it till 1832, when he was elected for North Lancashire, for which important constituency he sat in the Commons until called to the House of Lords. On the occasion of Earl Grey's Government Mr. Stanley was appointed Chief Secretary for Ireland. It was at this time that he made his chief mark as an orator. The people demanded Parliamentary Reform, and Mr. Stanley was one of those most ardent in the cause. There are many still living who speak with enthusiasm of the dash of his unstudied eloquence, both in and out of Parliament. He had all the irresistible impulse of youth, and he had the intense love of battle. He was ready in a moment to harangue a multitude. Up he would get on a chair or a table, and send forth a torrent of declamation that carried all before it. In the House of Commons he was naturally more restrained. Here he had to measure himself in debate with Peel and with the great O'Connell, who had then entered Parliament with a great reputation for oratory. Mr. Stanley liked nothing better than a fight, and was quite willing to meet O'Connell on equal terms. He went into the contest with the zest of a pugilist. He spoke of O'Connell in those days as a "heavy weight," and of his encounters with him as "rounds;" and many believed that in finished oratory the son of the House of Derby excelled the great tribune of the people; for the House of Commons chafed O'Connell's eloquence, while it improved that of Mr. Stanley. The following description of Mr. Stanley, in those days, is worth preserving:

"Nothing was more remarkable than the contrast between the man and the orator. In private he was playful as a kitten, restless as a child, and one might wonder how such a big boy could ever be a sober statesman. On the other hand, when he got up to speak he was collected and calm, at least as calm as anyone can be in the passion of oratory; and there was, with all its harshness, an unexpected stateliness and rhythm in his style and fashion of address. Then, again, when he sat down—we are speaking of his earlier days—he would relax into restlessness, now resting his feet in queer places, perhaps on a table, and now suddenly, as he felt the blow from an adversary, curling them under his seat, and moving about. By his style, however, what it might be the delight of his friends, the terror of his foes, and the admiration of all."

Such he was as the delight of the Whigs, who afterwards became almost the sole hope of the Conservatives. The late Earl of Aberdeen, whose life extending over the term of nearly three generations, gave him a title to speak with authority, pronounced Stanley and Gladstone the two greatest orators it had been his lot to hear. In 1834 Mr. Stanley deserted the Whigs on the Irish Church question, the proposition then carried being the appropriation of a portion of its revenues to educational purposes. Joining the Tories he took office under Peel, with whom he acted in concert until the repeal of the Corn laws. At that important crisis in the history of the Conservative party of England, Lord Stanley took strong ground against free trade, and after Peel's defection was formally installed as leader of the Conservatives. In 1851, he formed an administration on the ruins of "finality John's" unpopularity, and before Lord Palmerston had yet asserted his commanding mastery of the English people. The Cabinet was but short-lived, and was succeeded by Lord Aberdeen's Ministry of "all the talents," which lasted long enough to become unpopular by its mismanagement of the Crimean war. Again, in 1858, chiefly through the dissensions of the Reform party, Earl Derby was called upon to form a Cabinet, and he did so, including in its ranks the very flower of the Conservative party. This Ministry, like the first he formed, lasted but about a year, and it was not until 1866, when old "Pam." had at length been gathered to his fathers, and Earl Russell had out-lived his generation, that Lord Derby was enabled to establish a Ministry which made for itself a conspicuous niche in the temple of fame. This Ministry, however, he did not feel himself capable of leading, for the following year, because of declining health, he resigned the Premiership to Mr. D'Israeli. His last important speech was a vehement and eloquent protest against the disestablishment of the Irish Church, at the conclusion of which he made an eloquent and touching allusion to the Queen, and his devotion to her throne, which challenged the unqualified admiration of all classes, even the most radical of his political opponents. He is succeeded in his title and estates by one who, though like him is a ripe scholar, is unlike him in many ways, but is, nevertheless, worthy to wear the name of Derby with honour to himself and advantage to his country.

A physician writes to the *Dublin Journal of Medicine* in support of the old notion that people sleep much better with their heads to the north. He has tried the experiment in the case of sick persons with marked effect, and insists that there are known to exist great electric currents, always crossing in one direction around the earth, and that our nervous systems are in some mysterious way connected with this electrical agent.

TO LITERARY MEN.

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THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1869.

On Tuesday last, Mr. Dunkin was sworn into office as Minister of Agriculture, and Mr. Morris as Minister of Inland Revenue. The Hon. Mr. Benson does not join the Cabinet, the place which rumour had assigned him being filled by the Hon. Mr. Aikens, Senator, who for the present is a member of the Privy Council without office. When the Hon. Mr. Macdougall resigns the Ministry of Public Works, he will be succeeded by the Hon. Mr. Langevin, whose present department (Secretaryship of State) will be assigned to Mr. Aikens. Hon. Mr. Howe has resigned the Presidency of the Council, and is now Secretary of State for the Provinces; while the Hon. Mr. Kenny, late Receiver-General, has been appointed President of the Council, and Hon. Mr. Chapais, having retired from the Department of Agriculture, succeeds Mr. Kenny as Receiver-General.

Though we have not seen any reason assigned by the Ministerial press for Mr. Macdougall's still retaining his seat in the Cabinet and the nominal headship of his department, we presume it is because, for the present, it is only as a Minister that he can pretend to exercise even the semblance of authority over his new domain. As Minister of Public Works he is chief of the surveying parties now in the North-West, as well as of those who have been engaged in road-making; and it was under his direct administration that the money was appropriated for the latter purpose. He is very properly at Fort Garry now as an adviser of the Crown, and not a mere expectant of an office which, though certain (humanly speaking) to fall to his lot, cannot be legally conferred on him until the Territories are formally annexed to Canada by the Queen's proclamation.

FATHER McMahon has been seduced into making an exhibition of himself at the Cooper Institute, New York, and reciting the story of his persecutions in Canada. The written statement got up for him by some enterprising Fenian scribe was false in many particulars and very highly coloured in others. It had no word of grateful acknowledgment for those who interested themselves to secure his release, nor for the clemency of the Government which hearkened to their petition. The Mayor of New York presided at the gathering, and Horace Greeley graced the platform, and disgraced himself, by his presence. The *Toronto Leader* well says of Mr. Greeley that he applauds rebellion and revolution in every country but his own; and it might have added that he was one of those fanatical abolitionists who encouraged the Southern States to secede from the Union, and when secession came, among the first to call for its suppression by the sword.

Many Canadian journals regret that Father McMahon should have been released from the Penitentiary, because he has shewn himself unworthy of his liberty; or at least has made a pro-Fenian and very unclerical use of it. But we do not see that Canada has lost anything by its generosity; it is rather probable it would have gained more by an earlier exercise of clemency towards him. The public appearance at Philadelphia and New York of a man, whose life was legally forfeited to Canadian justice, is no evidence of Canadian barbarity, and judging by the meeting at the Cooper Institute, we infer from the dignitaries on the platform—Oakey Hall and Richard O'Gorman on one side and Horace Greeley on the other—that it was a mere *ruse* for the possession of the Irish vote; and, that the Republicans had rather the worst of it, as Horace Greeley gave the Irishmen a lecture on their want of unity; while Hall and O'Gorman flattered them to their full. As a Fenian demonstration the gathering was without significance; and the narrative put on paper as that of Father McMahon's Canadian experience, exaggerated as it was, will be far more likely to dissuade others from entering on a like enterprise, than to tempt them to buckle on their armour to avenge his alleged wrongs.

The Colonial policy of the Imperial Government has recently been enunciated, in two separate despatches from the Chief Secretary of the Colonies, in a manner which leaves little room for doubt as to its interpretation. One of the despatches to which we refer was addressed by Earl Granville to Governor Musgrave of British Columbia. In this despatch union with Canada is strongly urged upon the British Columbians, and the importance of Canadian railway communication from the Atlantic to the Pacific is clearly pointed out. It would hardly be possible to mistake the drift of the Imperial policy, therefore, in so far as it relates to the British American Provinces. That policy is clearly to consolidate these Provinces and establish one British power in North America, supreme, under the British Crown, from ocean to ocean; and the direct Imperial advantage to be derived therefrom is the construction, at no distant day, of a complete chain of railway which will give British commerce such a highway, under the protection of the Imperial flag, as will enable it to compete successfully with every other nation in the world for the vast trade flowing hither and thither between Europe and the far East. For the early possession of this prize, and for the incidental advantages which the immediate construction of such a road would confer upon the Empire, by absorbing a great portion of the surplus labouring population of the British Isles, it would pay the Imperial Government handsomely to aid the work at least by a guarantee for its cost.

The other despatch, from the Colonial Office, relates to the unfortunate Colony of New Zealand, whose struggle with the Maories the Imperial Government refuses to support with material aid. It is to be feared that Mr. Gladstone's relentless logic has inspired the seemingly harsh treatment being meted out to New Zealand; but, on the other hand, it is said, and perhaps truly, that the colonists have dealt unfairly by the natives and provoked them to hostilities. Under any circumstance, it is only strictly logical that where the right of self-government is demanded and conceded, there the peace should be maintained by the local government within its own jurisdiction. A similar problem, though on a smaller scale, may yet present itself to Canada with respect to the Indians and mixed races in the North-West and British Columbia; and the people of Canada undoubtedly understand that they would have to bear the burthen of quelling any disturbance that might arise amongst them. But, unfortunately for New Zealand, the native population is comparatively powerful, and the effort to keep them on terms of peace is considered too much to be borne by the colonists; hence the appearance, if not the reality, of unfair treatment in the refusal of the Imperial authorities to assist them. Thus we see that the Imperial policy which towards Canada is considered fair on both sides, is esteemed a serious hardship towards New Zealand, and this fact is to our view suggestive of the futility of holding a conference between the representatives of all the principal colonies for the purpose of determining upon their relationship with the Empire. The terms which would prove satisfactory to one would be found quite unsuited to others, and this project, recently broached in London, and approved by Earl Grey, would be productive of very little, if any good, even should it be carried out, which we think extremely doubtful.

The Earl of Carnarvon has written a letter protesting against the east iron logic of the Colonial office as applied to New Zealand. He admits that the argument of the Colonial Secretary is unimpeachable, but contends that other considerations than the mere consequence of keeping the peace within its borders as a corollary of the privilege of self-government, ought to be taken into account in determining Imperial action. "We are arriving," he goes on to say, "at a stage when, perhaps, a decision may be forced upon us from a sudden catastrophe within the colony, such as an extensive massacre of settlers, or from a grave political contingency without, such as an appeal by the colonists in their despair to some foreign Power—a contingency which I regret to have heard mooted in this country. But, unless English feeling is strangely altered, we should be slow to acquiesce in either of these conclusions. Logic would be thrown to the winds, and we might find ourselves committed to issues on which it is, perhaps, better not now to speculate. Is, then, any course consistent with honour and sound policy still open to us?"

In the above extract the noble Earl points out the real danger to the Empire, of which the hard rule of a fixed line of action towards the Colonies might any day be the cause; and he correctly enough says that in the face of that real danger, "logic would be thrown to the winds." Lord Carnarvon suggests an Imperial loan to aid the New Zealanders, and refers to the Intercolonial Railway loan and others guaranteed for Canada, which he holds were well granted to secure "the enduring union" of these Provinces with the British Crown. That is still the dominating idea in Britain with respect to the Colonies—