

and the youth had to work his way upwards by his own personal exertions. From the outset a distinguishing feature of his character was a marvellous power of concentration and habit of industry, and it was the cultivation of these qualities which enabled him by degrees to give proof of his more brilliant intellectual qualities and which insured his rise from the reporters' chair to the lawyer's office, and thence to be Alderman of his city, Member of the Provincial Legislature, Premier of his Province, Judge, Minister of Justice for the Dominion, Premier of Canada, representative of Great Britain during the International Arbitration Conferences, and at last, Privy Councillor of Great Britain.

In each and all of these capacities he has left a record which any man may well envy, and one founded not on mere brilliancy of eloquence, or ability to evoke popular sympathies, or cleverness in manipulating party politics.

Search through his life, ask those who knew him best, and there is but one testimony. Thoroughness of work, intensity of purpose, singleness of aim, unflinching conscientiousness and a prevailing sense of the Presence of God marked all he did or said. The poorest clients might depend on their case being gone into with the same thoroughness as was given in after years to a great legislative measure, or to the adjustment of an international question. Whether the matter was great or small which he had in hand, he considered it worthy of his best and his whole attention, and thus it has come about that during his comparatively brief tenure of office as Minister of Justice, he left the stamp of enduring work on the laws of the country, as for example, in the splendid accomplishment of the codifying of the criminal law, which he carried through with infinite pains and which has placed Canada ahead, in this respect, of many older countries. When listening to the details of a case, he would often sit looking immovable and irresponsive, but when the moment came for summing up, or charging the jury, it was found that not a point had escaped him, and that the just proportion and weight of all the facts were given with extraordinary precision and lucidity, and his arguments were so forcible as to carry all before them. His public speaking was eloquent, because of the matter which it contained and the strength of his reasoning, mingled with a quiet by-play of humour and kindness. There was never any of that straining after effect, or the saying of words for the sake of saying them, which mark the utterances of weaker men. And in this, his speaking was after all, only typical of the man, who showed his greatness in his simplicity, humility, and entire absence of egotism or self-consciousness.

The success which he won in all that he undertook never spoilt him—to the end he was as a child—willing to learn from all and never so full of his own opinions as not to be able to listen to what others had to say. But when his turn came to speak, there was no hesitation, and he could hold his own with the best of them.