

should know him well, a privilege which the present writer cannot boast. The present writer, therefore, can do little more than follow the high road of Sir John's career as a public man, pointing out those milestones commemorative of the ever decreasing distance between the Architect of the Dominion and his assured niche in the Temple of Fame.

People talk glibly enough about statesmen, but few realize the import of the word. The term "statesman" is, by uneducated and half-educated persons, applied to clamorous politicians and hysterical grievance-mongers, who should be better described as "stateswomen," an expression which, as we all know, Ben Jonson used in contempt.

But a statesman is a *rara avis*. There are not three now living in the United States. There are not five in Canada. Sir John Macdonald is, beyond all comparison, the greatest of our four, and, indeed, the greatest on the continent. Why a population of between fifty and sixty millions should yield fewer statesmen than a population of between five and six millions need not be discussed here. Our freer institutions and immeasurably grander tradition and history as an integral part of the greatest empire of the world are more favourable to the production and development of statesmanship than are the "rough, raw, and democratic" fashions of the American Republic. An eminent Canadian forcibly expressed, on the 4th of January, 1889, an estimate of the dignity of positions in the two countries which implied this truth, and so speaking, he showed himself to be not only a patriot, but also a man of sound, practical common sense: "I would myself," said the Honourable Oliver Mowat, "rather be Premier of Ontario than Governor of New York; and, if I had any ambition for still higher public honours, which I have not, I would rather be Premier of Canada than President of the United States." While the main attributes of statesmanship are necessarily the same everywhere, the accidents differ widely in the case of the public men of Great Britain, the United States, and Canada. Nowhere does the training of men for public life begin as early as in Canada and in the American Republic: and one would, therefore, look for a proportionate thoroughness and culture in American and Canadian public men.