

SIR JOHN MACDONALD.

If anything can assuage the profound grief of every Canadian at the death of SIR JOHN MACDONALD, it is the sincere and universal sorrow which the event has provoked in every corner of the Anglo-Saxon world. Wherever the English language is spoken it is felt that one of the foremost of English statesmen has passed away. The whole Empire, as LORD SALISBURY well said in the House of Lords, on Monday, shares the grief of Canada at the loss of one who was for nearly half a century its devoted champion, and who was as great a constitutional statesman as this or any other nation has seen. These were not words of mere panegyric. They were the expression of the thoughts of QUEEN and subject alike, and the memorial service in Westminster Abbey to-morrow will give a fitting crown to the tributes of respect and esteem which the whole British people have paid to one of their most gifted and devoted public men. And when we remember all that SIR JOHN MACDONALD was and all that he did for Canada and the Empire, this widespread grief is not surprising. It suited some of his opponents to speak of him as a trickster and "a thimble-rigging premier," but there is no one in Canada to-day who does not feel that but for his keen grasp of public affairs and his wonderful skill in the marshalling of forces to attain his end Canada would to-day be but a shadow of herself. He was to Canada what BISMARCK was to Germany—the great unifying force, the central figure round which the new national life gathered life and strength. He realized the needs of a young country, where the rough-and-ready understanding of the people is bound at last to prove the guiding power, and by making himself at once the exponent and the leader of popular feeling, he gained an influence which few living men possessed, and which probably no other statesman turned to greater advantage. There is not a crisis in the Canadian history of the past half-century, down even to the political storm of the present year, in which he did not play a leading part; and the measure of power and prosperity which Canada enjoys is largely due to the zeal and skill of him whose remains the whole Canadian nation is to-day following in affectionate remembrance to their last resting-place at Kingston.