

of parliamentary eloquence : and no one, let me add, goes away disappointed.

It was during his recent tour through the neighboring Province of Ontario that our gallant compatriot gave, perhaps, the most convincing evidence of all his qualifications for political chieftainship.

No one, unhappily, needs to be told of the intense prejudice which, for two or three years previously, had been excited throughout that part of the country against all of us who are of French birth and of the Roman Catholic faith. A few fanatics, who saw in public strife the hope of private advantage, had waved the brand of discord and set the popular mind aflame. The old leaven of hereditary and half-forgotten hatreds was again fermenting everywhere, and rights that were represented as being menaced formed a pretext for arousing the hostility of a considerable portion of Ontario against ourselves and our Province. The party chiefs resisted to the best of their ability, and made Herculean efforts to stem the tide, at the risk of being swept to their own destruction by its angry waters. But, finding that in spite of all attempts to quell the disturbance, the danger of more serious strife was increasing every moment, the Liberals of the sister province decided that they could not do better than summon Laurier to the rescue.

It is no part of my present task to point out the causes of this deplorable outbreak, nor to decide upon whose shoulders should justly rest the bulk of the responsibility thereby incurred. I will confine myself to the statement, that for a party leader, who was both a Frenchman and a Roman Catholic, to venture, as Laurier did, into Toronto itself, and there confront the furious cries of "No Popery ! No French domination !" was more than heroic : it was positively rash. "As well face a tiger in its lair," it was currently said at the time. And when the young chief had accepted the almost superhuman task that had thus been imposed upon him, the conclusion very generally expressed was : "That's the last of Laurier !"

Nevertheless, Wilfrid Laurier returned triumphant.

By what magic had he conquered ?

By the frankness and generosity of his words ; by his eminently conciliatory nature, which enables him, with such tact and time-