

# Northwest Review.

"AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM."

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## Canada Mourns

The Loss of a Gifted Son  
and Honest States-  
man.

The Angel of Death Sum-  
moned the Premier of  
Canada.

From the Foot of an Earthly  
Throne to that of the  
King of Kings.

Shortly after going to press last Wednesday morning the very sad intelligence of the sudden death in London, England, Sir John S. D. Thompson, Premier of Canada, reached the City. Sir John had been summoned to Windsor Castle by command of her Majesty Queen Victoria, to be sworn in a member of the Queen's Privy Council. A special train left London, at noon conveying the cabinet ministers to Windsor Castle, where they attended a meeting of the privy council. Upon this occasion Sir John Thompson, the Canadian prime minister, was to be sworn in as a member of the privy council and he accompanied the cabinet ministers to Windsor Castle.

Sir John Thompson had a conference Tuesday with Lord Ripon upon the subject of inter-colonial copyright and the importation of Canadian cattle. The ministers who accompanied him to Windsor to-day were Lord Ripon, secretary of state of India, and Hon. Mr. Fowler, postmaster-general.

After Sir John had been sworn in as privy councillor to her majesty Queen Victoria, he sat at luncheon with the Marquis of Ripon and others when he was suddenly taken ill. A doctor was at once summoned but Sir John was dead before the physician arrived.

### REQUIEM MASS.

Shortly before midnight Wednesday a requiem service was held in the room of the Clarence tower, in which the remains were first deposited. The Rev. Father Longhinatt, a Roman Catholic priest of Windsor, officiating. Sir Charles Tupper, the Canadian high commissioner, Lord Pelham, Clinton, the master of the Queen's household, and other high officials of the castle were present at the service, which was most impressive, and lasted half an hour. The body of the dead premier lay on a small bedstead, dressed in white linen night clothes, and with a crucifix upon his breast. The expression of the face was placid, although the features were a trifle discolored.

### THE PALL-BEARERS.

On either side of the hearse walked the pall-bearers, Lord Hawksbury, Sir Fleetwood, Isham Edwards, assistant keeper of the privy purse; Sir John McNeill, Colonel Carryington, Lord Pelham Clinton, master of the Queen's household, Sir Henry Ponsonby, the Queen's private secretary, Dr. James Reid, the Queen's resident medical attendant. Behind the hearse was Sir Charles Tupper, the Canadian high commissioner, who acted as chief mourner. He was followed by a number of the members of the Queen's household, all in deep mourning.

### WATCHED BY HER MAJESTY.

The procession left the castle by the Henry the Eight gateway, at about 12.30 p.m. All the shades of the castle were drawn down, except at one window, from where the Queen witnessed the departure of the body for the railway station. The guard at the gateway was called out and presented arms as the coffin passed. The funeral car reached the station of the Great Western railway, arriving about 12.40 p.m. The coffin was placed on board the special train in waiting, which left Windsor at 1 p. m. for London.

### THE QUEEN'S REGRETS.

The Queen asked to have Mrs. and Miss Sandford presented to her, and when they reached the castle she expressed profound grief at the death of Sir John Thompson, and her great sympathy with them and the Canadian people in the loss they had sustained. The Canadian high commissioner, Sir Charles Tupper, this morning previous to the funeral ceremonies, had an audience with the queen, who declared to him that she felt the deepest grief at Canada's loss, and expressed in touching words her sympathy with the Canadian people. Her majesty then ordered Sir Charles Tupper to cable a message expressive of her sorrow to the Earl of Aberdeen, Governor-General of Canada. The following is the text of the Queen's message to the Earl of Aberdeen:—"The Queen has personally commanded me to express to your excellency her deep sympathy with the people of Canada in the sad blow which the country has sustained by the sudden and untimely death of the premier. (Sgd.) Tupper."

### IN LONDON.

The special funeral train on the route from Windsor to this city, bearing the

remains of the premier of Canada, stopped only at Slough, and arrived at Paddington at 1.40 p. m., where a two horse hearse was in waiting. The coffin was removed from the hearse without further ceremony, except that all present on the platform stood with bare heads until the body had been driven away.

### HEART DISEASE THE CAUSE.

Dr. Travers, who attended Sir John Thompson since the latter's return to England from Italy, has certified that the cause of death was heart disease. In consequence, the formality of an inquest was dispensed with. All the arrangements in connection with the embalming and transportation of the remains are being attended to under the explicit direction of the English government officials. All the castle officials, in their anxiety that Canada should have every detail possible of the death of Sir John Thompson and the honor paid his remains, have granted the press representatives exceptional privileges in order that all the news might be sent to the Dominion.

### IN THE CITY.

At the services held in the Catholic churches on Sunday and Monday references were made to the death of Sir John Thompson, and in addition to tributes of respect to the deceased premier prayers were offered up for the repose of his soul.

At the regular meeting of St. Mary's Court Catholic Order of Foresters Friday night, it was unanimously resolved:—That this court has learned with deep regret of the death of Sir John Thompson and beg to express their sincere sympathy with Lady Thompson in her sad bereavement.

LADY THOMPSON and family leave for Halifax on Friday. The Imperial Government have been asked to retard the speed of the Blenheim so as to enable her to reach Halifax with the remains about the 27th. The Ministers and any Ontario friends who may desire to attend the state funeral would then be in a position to spend Christmas at home, leaving for Halifax on the 26th. Hon. Mr. Bawell called the High Commissioner Monday as follows:—"Am pleased to learn that the state of your health permits your taking the journey. We shall all be glad to meet you at Halifax."

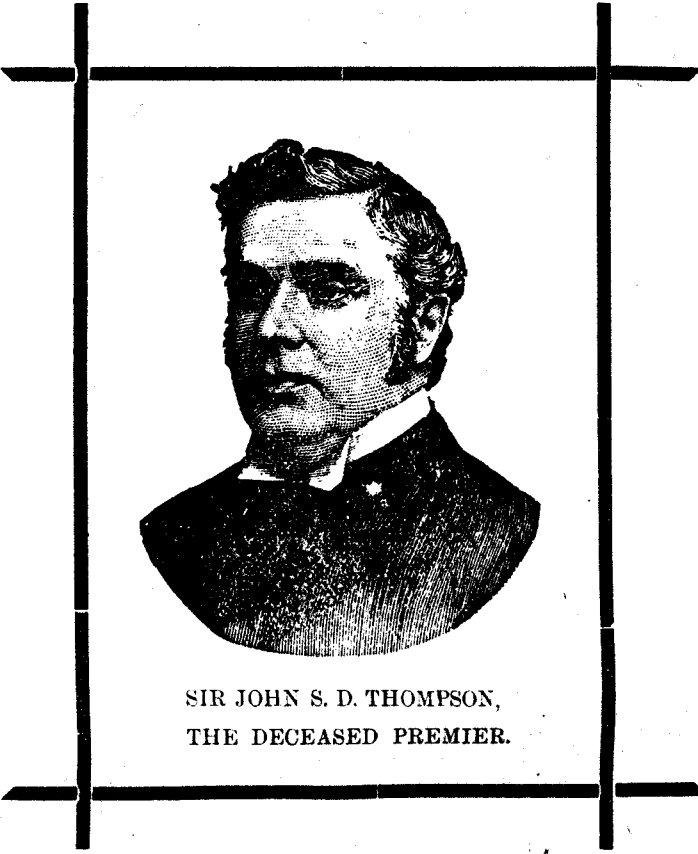
### Biographical.

Sir John Sparrow Thompson, was the son of John Sparrow Thompson, Esq., of Waterford, Ireland; who was for a time Queen's Printer, and afterwards Superintendent of the Money Order System of Nova Scotia. The late Premier was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on the 10th No-

was thus cut off in the zenith of his career.

Sir John Thompson's rapid rise in the field of statesmanship, so far as Canadian history is concerned, has found no parallel save in the career of Sir John Macdonald, and even when compared with the career of that wonderful successful man, his rise to the exalted position occupied by him at the time of his demise presents some features which mark it as unique and unparalleled. At a very early age, it is true, Sir John Macdonald had become recognized as a leader among the people of old Canada; but his after fame—if we may be permitted to use the word—his Imperial fame, and the love and confidence he eventually won every where in British hearts, were fruits that he did not gather until after many years of service. Sir John Thompson had only turned fifty years of age; he had been in the wider field of Canadian politics not yet half a score of years; but in that short time he had not only reached the highest gift of Canadians, but he had won worthy rank among those British statesmen, whether of the Motherland or of the Colonies, to whose true hearts and great minds the only difficult problems and delicate tasks of the Empire are entrusted with confidence. The career of Sir John Thompson was one to which Canadians may point to with pardonable pride. It was indeed one of those grand examples which do so much to supply history with its invaluable lessons of encouragement and instruction.

Of course the great success which he had achieved never could have been without the possession of parts of the very highest order. Such parts friend and foe alike admit him to have been possessed of. Indeed, parliamentarians of great experience and lawyers in the front rank were not slow in declaring that his mental equipment was something marvellous. Nor was the opinion confined to Canada. Upon the great Behring Sea Tribunal, meeting as he did there the chosen men of Great Britain and other European nations, his powers were felt to be of the first stored with all sorts of knowledge, widely read on every subject likely to be met with in his varied duties, possessed of wonderful insight, which enabled him to go into the heart of a complex question at once, the possessor of a logic and power of argument that are cruelly irresistible, he could indeed have applied to him a description which one of his leading op-



SIR JOHN S. D. THOMPSON,  
THE DECEASED PREMIER.

ponents at Ottawa gave of him when he said:—"Sir John Thompson is the clearest thinker and most merciless critic that the House has ever seen." Only recently honored by Her Majesty with a membership of the Imperial Council, the London Times, the exponent of the best British opinion, followed that up by paying the Canadian leader the greatest compliment that it had in its power to bestow by urging his appointment to the highest court in the British empire, outside of the British parliament, namely, the Judicial Committee of the Imperial British Privy Council.

These facts alone were evidence of the great confidence that Sir John's ability and patriotism won for him in the very heart of the Empire. They were compliments to Canada itself, of which every Canadian, we feel sure, of whatever party, will be proud. From the first day of his entrance into the Dominion Parliament the Premier was recognized as the peer of its ablest men; but if that were true of his position then it is equally true that during late years, in the undivided judgment of the House, he stood head and shoulders above any of his contemporaries. Each succeeding session, indeed, he gave evidence of being possessed of a reserve force of mental power that surprised even those who appreciated his abilities most highly.

Mental power alone, however, would never have given him the unbounded respect and confidence he enjoyed from those who knew him best. Fortunately the other traits of his character were in keeping. He was the soul of honor; his word was a bond, slowly given but sacredly kept; to this his bitterest opponents were ever ready to subscribe. Whether as a judge in his native pro-

vince or as a member of its Government, and for a time its premier, his honesty of purpose and purity of motive were never for a moment questioned. His public career in Nova Scotia was one to which he can look back with pride and upon which his followers can look with pride as well. His was a career of closest economy, a reduction of public expenditure, a wiping off of provincial debt, and above all, of clean and above-board business methods. If our readers will stop for a moment to think, they will remember that against his administration of affairs in that Province they have not seen the shadow of an insinuation past by his opponents. Of his career in the larger field of Federal politics, which to-day is finished, the same will be told if the truth adhered to. One of his opponents not long ago gave valuable evidence as to the Premier's character as a public man.

When he was discussing a measure that was talked of being introduced to Parliament he declared:—"If Sir John Thompson thinks it is right he will support it, and if he thinks it is wrong all the force that can be brought to bear upon him will not make him withdraw his opposition to it." This, we submit, is just the kind of man that Canada could least afford to lose from a leading place in her councils—a man who could not be persuaded into desertion of what he believed to be the true principle of public policy, by which, in the interest of Canada, he should be guided, by either political expedience or the demands of any class, sect or interest, however powerful, to aid him in the retention of office, or however powerful to injure him politically if their demands be not acceded to—a man who was prepared to stand by the right, and if necessary to go down with it for the moment, but to stand by it still.

In private life Sir John Thompson was essentially a domestic man; he was devoted to his family, and what time he could snatch from the affairs of the country was spent in their midst. A genial home atmosphere pervaded the unpretentious house in which he lived, and everybody who crossed his threshold felt immediately that he was in the house of a man who, if he were to consult his own tastes and desires, would quietly leave to others the wearing and wearying duties of public life, and devote himself to the pursuit of a profession of which he was undoubtedly the greatest living Canadian member, and to the enjoyment of those comforts and pleasures that are only to be found around a home hearth.

Outside of the points referred to, the main feature of Sir John Thompson's public career was his sturdy Britishism. He was an enthusiastic admirer of British institutions and British methods. He was an enthusiastic admirer of the Motherland, bound to maintain it, and ever ready to adopt such methods as would aid towards the consolidation of the Empire. In this regard as in all others, he was a worthy successor of the old chief, whose expiring battle cry was for the perpetuation upon the American continent of British institutions.

This trait of his character came out very prominently in the answer which he gave to the Temperance delegation that interviewed him recently. Well known as he has always been—as an outspoken friend of advanced legislation in the interests of temperance and higher morals, he would give them no promises. Put briefly, his answer was this:—"I could humbug you if I like, but I have too much respect for myself to do that, and therefore there are grave difficulties in the way of immediate legislation such as you desire."

When the deputation had withdrawn and was on its way down town, one of its leading members remarked that "the Premier was a hard man to get a promise out of, but once it was given it would be worth something."

Whether it was intended as a compliment or not cannot be said, but it certainly was one.

Another notable feature of the premier's character was his aversion to humbug in any form. He attempted to please and satisfy, but by sweet words that meant nothing, not by a candor and straight forwardness that in the end won him golden opinions even among those who find humbug not unpleasant to take from great men. Every one who ever talked with him felt that he was in the presence of a man who meant what he said and would say nothing that he did not feel.

But with all this strength of character and will power, Sir John Thompson was not in any sense self-opinated or contract in his views; indeed, men of truly great parts such as he was possessed of can be neither the one or the other. Those who knew him best say that he was always ready and willing to listen to arguments and to be convinced if good reasons were given. This indeed, must have been the case, or he never would have been able to win, as he did, the love and admiration of those, whether in the Province or the Dominion, who were associated with him most closely. In his sympathies he was broad and liberal. Indeed, a gentleman who had known the Premier intimately; both during his career in Nova Scotia and Ottawa, and who had opportunity of seeing much of his home and private life, declared that he believed him to be not only incapable of prejudice himself, but possessed of a thorough contempt for prejudice or narrowness of view wherever such are to be found. Certainly his public acts have borne out this opinion of him. Dealing with many delicate matters in which his own political or religious opinions might have been expected by some to have colored his judgment to a certain extent at least, he always displayed a broadness of vision and an impartial rectitude of purpose which challenged the admiration of all who have watched his course.