

327736
4. 6. 36.

MR. MEREDITH AT LONDON.

He Puts his Principles Before the Electors of the Province.

[From THE EMPIRE, December 17th, 1889.]

LONDON, Dec. 16.—The greatest demonstration in the political history, not only of London, but of the western counties of the Province of Ontario, took place to-night, when Mr. W. R. Meredith, Q.C., M.P.P., delivered an address in the Grand Opera House here under the auspices of the Young Men's Liberal Conservative Association of London. The spacious hall, together with the double galleries which surround the auditorium, were crowded to their utmost capacity, and literally hundreds of citizens were either unable to gain admittance to the hall or had to stand crushed together in the lobbies during the entire three hours which the meeting occupied. The gathering was representative of the best in the commercial, mercantile, agricultural and general interest of these districts.

Enthusiastic Reception of Mr. Meredith.

Mr. Meredith on rising to speak received a tremendous ovation, the vast audience saluting him with an enthusiasm characteristic of a London audience. His speech occupied two hours and thirty-five minutes in delivering, and was listened to throughout with an intentness that showed the deep interest the people took in the momentous questions under discussion. There were frequent enthusiastic bursts of applause, the warmest perhaps being in endorsement of the stand the leader of the Opposition took upon the religious questions that are now under discussion.

MR. MEREDITH'S SPEECH.

The Leader of the Opposition Begins His
Eloquent Address.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—Before proceeding to address the observations which I intend to make to-night upon the public questions of the day, permit me to thank my fellow-citizens for the manner in which they have received me here to-night. It is now some seventeen years

since I had the honor of being called to occupy the position of representative in the Local House of the city of London, and I have always received from my fellow-citizens from that time until now the warmest and kindest acts, which I shall never forget till my dying day. (Applause.) I cannot expect, sir, that a public man in the course of a career extending over seventeen or eighteen years, as mine has, will in all things have satisfied all of his constituents, but at all events this I can say: I have endeavored at all times honestly to discharge my duty as the chosen representative of the Conservative party, and according to my light as to what was for the best interests of this province and this country. (Applause.) I am here to-night, sir, somewhat out of the ordinary course, because it has not been the usual thing on previous occasions that I should address my fellow-citizens as I am addressing them to-night, and I have observed in several quarters there has been a good deal said about why I have not spoken and why I am keeping silent. Mr. Chairman, so far as those of my friends are concerned, I think they can trust me that I will speak when the time properly comes that I should speak—(hear, hear)—and for those of my opponents who

Find Fault that I Did Not Speak.

I have to say they would not find fault if they thought anything was to be gained by my not speaking. I am here to-night to give an account of my stewardship and to tell you some of the reasons why I am of the opinion that the Government which is presided over by Mr. Mowat is not entitled to the confidence of the public of this country. (Cheers.) I have observed that Mr. Mowat has been addressing his constituents, and through them the people of this country upon the public questions of the day, and you seem to have a complete answer to any charges that are now made against this