

THE REQUEST.

Your eyes will look in hers, and drink
 Deep of their tenderness, and smile;
 And what your thoughts are, she will think;
 And wholly worship you the while.
 Ah! when she has this joy divine
 Forget—that so you looked in mine!

Your words will thrill her with their hidden power,
 Your nearness fill her with a sweet delight;
 Make her forget brief is Love's longest hour;—
 Your presence makes her day, your absence night.—
 Ah! while such perfect happiness there be
 Forget—that so you spoke to me!

Your kindly kiss will fall on loving lips
 Lips which with ardour cling to your embrace—
 And kiss will fall on kiss; her finger tips
 Will softly sweep the love locks from your face.
 Ah! while she is so near—so near to thee,
 Forget—that even so you kissed me!

Your arms will close around her yielding form,
 And draw her happy head upon your breast,—
 Can out of joy like this a pain be born?—
 And you will whisper "*Sweet, I love you best.*"
 Ah! while she is so close—so close to thee,
 Forget—that even so you whispered me!

Your love will grow around her life, and fill
 Her days with happiness; your tender care
 Will surely save her soul from slightest ill,
 Nor let her life be touched by dark despair.
 Ah! when she is so much—so much to thee,
 Forget—that so your love once sheltered me!

Montreal.

MAY AUSTIN.

PROMINENT CANADIANS.—I.

HON. OLIVER MOWAT, Q.C., LL.D.

WERE some skilful pen-and-ink artist to sketch, at the dictation of a number of representative Canadians taken from the various walks of public and private life, from both of the great political parties, and from the rapidly swelling ranks of those who profess to be subservient to neither party, their respective conceptions of the ideal Canadian statesman, the result would no doubt be a series of distinct portraits as numerous as the individuals consulted. Each model thus formed would have its own peculiar traits and proportions. It would, nevertheless, be inevitable that the points of likeness should be both more numerous and more important than the points of contrast. Let the number of distinct models thus obtained be reduced—as there is too much reason to fear it might be largely reduced—by the rejection of all those in which strict conscientiousness and lofty morality were not conspicuous features. Let the question then be submitted to a body of competent and unbiassed judges, "Who of all the men now in Canadian public life has shown himself possessed in the greatest number, and in the highest degree, of the fundamental qualities of Canadian statesmanship, as evolved by this process?" We make bold to say that the answer by a large majority, if not with unanimous consent, would be, "The Honourable Oliver Mowat, Attorney-General and First Minister of the Province of Ontario."

The claim is a large one. Many may be inclined at first thought to demur, but fuller consideration will, in most cases, compel assent. What are the qualities essential to the conception of a Canadian statesman of the first order? To attempt an exhaustive enumeration would be arrogant, but it should not be very hard to make a list such as would be generally approved of those most indispensable. The ideal man for the highest position in Dominion or Provincial politics must combine with the qualities which command influence and respect those which win success. He must not only be honest, able, industrious, and patriotic, but must have extraordinary tact, shrewdness, and practicality. It would not perhaps be very hard to find, amongst the men now prominent in Canadian public affairs, those who are the equals of Mr. Mowat in several of the qualities enumerated. A very few might be found his superiors in respect to some one or more of them. Corrupt as Canadian politics have unquestionably become, there are yet happily a few leaders who have held fast their integrity, of each of whom it can be said, as well as of Oliver Mowat, that no man can lay any dishonourable deed to his charge, or point to any stain of immorality on his escutcheon.

Mr. Mowat's most ardent admirers will scarcely claim for him the intellectual breadth and massiveness, or the grand oratorical powers, of a Blake. His capacity for sustained hard work is immense, and, as is almost always the case with men who have accomplished much, is one of the chief sources of his strength; but two ex-leaders of the Liberal Parliament in the Commons are living embodiments of the genius of industry and, to the country's great loss, have successively broken their health by excessive toil of brain. If intelligent devotion to his own province and unflinching defence of her rights are a proof of patriotism, the Premier of Ontario has proved himself a patriot of the first water. Should it be said that the

fealty of a Canadian is first to the Dominion rather than to the province, the ready answer is that he who is true to his own province when it entrusts its interests to his keeping, cannot be false to the Dominion, or to any other province. By boldly maintaining the possessions and prerogatives of Ontario, Mr. Mowat has best promoted the harmony and permanence of the whole Confederation.

As to the practical qualities which are so much prized in political science, Conservatives, at least, will be slow to admit that even Mr. Mowat's well-proved tact and shrewdness can entitle him to rank with that prince of tacticians and incarnation of political subtlety, who is the Ulysses of Canadian party warfare, and who has so long kept his party in power and himself at its head, in Dominion affairs. Be that as it may, the man who has shaped the policy and ruled the counsels of Ontario for sixteen consecutive and prosperous years, and who is still, in spite of all struggles for office, all prejudices of race and creed, and the most determined hostility of the Ottawa Government, at the head of its affairs, with an undiminished majority and a full exchequer, has most certainly established his claim to the position by the best argument of business men and politicians, that of practical success.

When we turn for a moment to inquire into the sources of the power which has made Mr. Mowat what he is, and placed him where he is, we are not surprised to find him of the stock which has given to Canada so many of its foremost men in every department, the Canadian-Scotch. His father, John Mowat, was from Caithness-shire, Scotland. He was a soldier who had seen stern service in the army of Wellington during its Peninsular campaigns; his wife was also of Caithness-shire. They came to Canada in 1816, and settled in Kingston, where their son Oliver was born on July 22, 1820. His education was as good as the schools of that city afforded at that date. At about the age of seventeen he entered the law office of Mr. (now Sir) John A. Macdonald, who, a young man but five years his senior, had just been admitted to the bar, and had settled down to practise his profession. At the outset of his student life young Mowat was called on to serve as a volunteer in the Rebellion of 1837. It may well be supposed that the state of parties and affairs in Canada to which his attention was thus early and practically called must have afforded him food for thought, and had much effect in shaping his after course. It is certainly noteworthy, as indicating both mental independence and moral earnestness of no common order, that, born as he was of Conservative parents, surrounded with Conservative influences, and trained in the study of a profession which is more closely related to politics than any other, in the office and under the direct influence of a man whose brilliant talents and personal magnetism have long been and still are the strongest forces on the side of Conservatism in Canada, Oliver Mowat should have chosen that broad-minded, moderate Liberalism, of whose principles he has ever since been so able an exponent, and so steadfast a promoter.

He was called to the Bar in 1842, and commenced practice in Kingston, but very soon afterwards came to Toronto, where he has ever since resided. At a time when the line of demarcation between Common Law and Equity was much more clearly drawn than at present, Mr. Mowat chose the latter branch. He rose quickly to eminence at the Chancery Bar. In 1856 he was appointed by the Government of which Mr. John A. Macdonald was a member, as Commissioner for Consolidating the Statutes of Canada and of Upper Canada respectively, a position which he held until 1859. In 1857 he was elected to Parliament as member for South Oxford. He continued to represent that constituency until 1864. Upon the fall of the Macdonald-Cartier Government in 1867, he was selected, though he had been but one year in the House, to fill the office of Provincial Secretary in the Brown-Dorion Administration. He held the portfolio of Postmaster-General in the Coalition Government formed by Mr. J. S. Macdonald in 1862, a position which he retained until the defeat of that Government in 1864. He was also a member of the memorable Union Conference which met at Quebec in 1864, and framed the Confederation Scheme; but his acceptance a few months later of the Vice-Chancellorship of Upper Canada deprived the framers of the Confederation Act of his services in the subsequent deliberations. When the Dual Representation Act compelled the retirement of Messrs. Blake and Mackenzie from the leadership of the Ontario Legislature in 1872, he was called on by the Lieutenant Governor, acting no doubt on the advice of the retiring Premier, to form an Administration. His descent from the Bench and re-entrance into political life gave occasion for a good deal of discussion at the time, on the part of those who thought, or affected to think, that the purity of the judicial ermine must be in some way contaminated by the change. The answer, if any is needed, to those who think that the position of Head of the Provincial Government is one requiring either mental or moral qualifications of a lower order than those of even the Chancellor's bench, is to be found in the record of sixteen years of able, upright, and progressive government of the affairs of Ontario. Those must be wilfully purblind who cannot now see that the judicial temperament and habit, with all of mental training and capacity and of moral integrity they imply, furnish the very best of qualifications for the responsible and honourable position of virtual ruler of a great province.

Sound discretion, marked ability, and sterling integrity have characterised Mr. Mowat's career in each division of his professional and official life. As a lawyer his talents quickly gained recognition, and reinforced by his clear judgment and scrupulous conscientiousness, soon won for him a high place in the confidence of the profession and of the court in which he practised. Though not fluent, he was energetic, forcible, and convincing as a pleader. His patience was admirable, his industry untiring, and his fertility in resources great. He was said to be endowed in large measure with the power of "thinking out" a subject, and was believed to be stronger in ability to go to the bottom of the subject than any of his con-