

all dissensions, all jealousies. Let it be remembered that should we continue the carrying on of this policy of general interest, and should order and peace continue amongst us, the Dominion will continue to see days of prosperity and greatness.

Mr. LAURIER. Mr. Speaker. I am sure I am voicing the sentiment of this side of the House, and, perhaps, also, for once, the sentiment of the other side, when I express to the hon. member for the City of Ottawa (Sir James Grant) and to the hon. member for Hochelaga (Mr. Lachapelle) the high sense of appreciation which we all entertain for the creditable efforts with which they have gratified the House. The duty which had been assumed by the mover and second of the Address is under all circumstances, as I know, a difficult one; and on this occasion having to create something out of nothing, having to evolve ideas out of few words, their task was particularly trying, and I am bound to say, in all conscience, that with the exception of a few flights of fancy to which I could not concur, they have come very well out of the ordeal. My hon. friend from the City of Ottawa particularly charmed me in one passage of his speech, where he referred to the Maritime Provinces as a nest of great men, and when he said that the Maritime Provinces always appreciated their great men, I could not but think of the event which only took place yesterday as evidence that in uttering this sentiment he spoke truly, and that Nova Scotia, at least, appreciates the great man who now conducts her provincial affairs. My hon. friend from the City of Ottawa, in the latter part of his speech, also referred in touching terms to names and memories which must forever be dear to all Canadian hearts; he lifted a cloud from the horizon which we once saw full of the splendour of their glory, although their forms are now for ever enshrouded in the silent shadow of death. My hon. friend had once the privilege of sitting in this House at a time when perhaps there was congregated on the floor a galaxy of men which has never been equalled since. Casting a glance around him, he was impressed, painfully impressed, with facts with which he was already familiar, but perhaps which had never impressed him so heavily before. He was impressed with the fact that the ranks of those who were guiding the destinies of this country some twenty years ago had been suddenly thinned by the hand of death. Well, time flies, and we are carried in its flight. This is nothing new, it is a very old and admitted truth; yet old as it may be, it is always new, and its painfulness always carries a new bitterness with it. To one who, like my hon. friend, comes into this House after a lapse of several years, perhaps to him the painfulness of that truth is more conscious than to us, who have been sitting continuously for these many years in this House, and who have seen the gradual

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disappearance one by one of all those whose absence from the floor he deploras, and whose memory he reveres. Yet after all we know this is the old and supreme law, and since it is, it should be, and inevitably must be, the part of wisdom, as my hon. friend said, to apply ourselves to fulfil to the best of our ability the task left to us by those whom we no longer see amongst us, but whose example I believe will ever remain. The hon. mover of the address was most felicitous in the remarks he made in regard to the cordial welcome which has been extended by all classes of the Canadian people to the distinguished nobleman who represents Her Majesty the Queen in this Dominion of Canada. All classes of people have been particularly satisfied with the selection which had been made by the Imperial authorities of the person of the Earl of Aberdeen to fill the position which has become perhaps one of the most important in the British Empire. In this democratic country we would deem it beneath our dignity to offer to anyone, however high in station, anything which would resemble fulsome flattery; yet it is no flattery whatever, but the sober truth, to say that Canada has been eminently fortunate in the character and gifts of all those who up to the present time have occupied the distinguished position of Governor General of Canada—I will not say Viceroy, as stated in this address—but simply use the regular term, Governor General of Canada. It is certainly no flattery to say that of all those eminent men who have occupied the position, no one came to the discharge of these important duties with a prouder name and prouder record than the present incumbent of that office. In one sense the name of Aberdeen came most fittingly after the name of Derby. The name of Aberdeen, like the name of Derby, is a name which, while it has been made famous by a long line of ancestors, has never shone more conspicuously than during the present reign. I re-echo every word that was spoken by the hon. member for Ottawa (Sir James Grant) with respect to the late illustrious incumbent of the office of Governor General. When Lord Derby left our shores he carried with him, as well as his distinguished consort, the entire sympathy and respect of the whole Canadian people, who had learned to appreciate their unobtrusive and genuine qualities. The reputation of the successor of Lord Derby had preceded him here, a reputation won by eminent services to the State, a reputation characterized by the most marvellous success which marked the administration of the Earl of Aberdeen as Viceroy of Ireland, a success which I say was nothing short of marvellous, when we remember that Lord Aberdeen came as Viceroy of Ireland to Dublin Castle in the midst of great agitation, in the midst of solid distrust, and left the castle six months after amidst the sobs and tears of a people quick to respond to kindness and generosity of a people whose tender heart and