

and delicate sentiment, and took pleasure in doing drawing and other artistic work, that was much admired. It is not then surprising to find in Laurier the distinct and varied faculties which make him at once a statesman so practical and an orator so brilliant.

At L'Assomption College, where he pursued his studies, he made himself remarkable by his courtesy, his love of reading, his talent for literature and oratory, and his independence of mind. He manifested from his very youth a disposition to reason out his thoughts and acts, and to eschew all preconceived ideas not based upon logic. He manifested a taste for the forum and the courthouse, and he never missed the occasion, even at the expense of breaking the rules of the college, to hear the lawyers and political orators who from time to time visited the village of L'Assomption.

It did not cause him much trouble to choose the career best suited to his talents and to his character. His course of college studies finished, he did not hesitate an instant before entering upon the study of law, entering as a clerk the office of Messrs. Laflamme, who had a considerable practice. He also entered upon the course of law at McGill University, and soon won the reputation of being one of the most brilliant students of that University. He shone in the very first rank in the literary societies and clubs, where the students devoted themselves to the development of eloquence and the interpretation of laws. Always affable and modest, kind and just, he was forgiven his superiority and wisdom, and enjoyed the esteem and admiration of his fellows.

Admitted to the bar in 1864, he practiced for some time the profession of advocate in partnership with the great agitator, Mederic Lanctot, whose passion for journalism and politics interfered with his attention to a large legal practice. Lanctot must have been very glad to place his hands upon a young advocate so hard-working, so devoted to his profession, and so capable.

His entrance upon political life was in 1871, when he was elected to represent the districts of Drummond and Arthabaska in the Quebec Legislature. He took a prominent part in the deliberations of the Legislature, but in 1874 was elected to the Dominion Parliament. His first speech marked him as a rising man, and enlarged his reputation from provincial to national.