

whose voice was more frequently raised to cement and consolidate all the parts of this new Dominion? It is a significant, although a melancholy fact, that the last speech which his eloquent lips uttered, was in defence of the Union which would make this country a great and prosperous nation, and thus his parting legacy, I may say his dying words, were an exhortation to concord and peace, securing to him for ever in the gratitude of his countrymen, the title which he desired most during his life, that of "peacemaker." Torn from amongst us while yet so young, scarcely forty-three years old, his mind had not yet attained its full development, and marvellous as have been the proofs of his genius, we shall never know to what a height he might yet have soared, if Providence had spared him to us for a longer time. With the new view of things which he had acquired during his late illness, and the renewed determination to apply himself still more closely to his duties, he might have become the greatest statesman of this new world, and worthy to be placed in comparison with the most illustrious names in the annals of Europe. Yet, my brethren, why should I, a minister of God, dwell upon such merely human qualities? Here, in the presence of the Most High, and with that poor corpse lying cold and motionless before us, must we not be inevitably reminded of the vanity of all earthly creatures, and of the words of Jesus Christ, "What doth it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul, and what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" T. D. McGee is now before a tribunal where earthly renown is counted for very little, and where the Judge will not inquire whether he was a good poet, or an eloquent orator, or a clever statesman, but whether he was a sincere and humble Christian, and employed well the gifts which he had received from above. As far as human knowledge can go, I believe the deceased did earnestly strive to prepare himself for the great account which we must all one day render to Him who is the Judge of the living and the dead. He had his faults, every one knows—let those who are without them cast the first stone at him. In his early days, when soured and disappointed with the defeat and failure of his cherished plans, he seemed for a while to be shaken in his love for the Church, which would not approve of revolutionary schemes, but when the mists of passion cleared away from his soul, the light of religion shone out all the brighter upon him. Nor was his faith a mere speculative belief in the doctrines of the Catholic Church. He was also an humble, and, despite of human frailty, a sincere observer of her teachings. One thing was very remarkable in his character. It was the simple, unaffected way in which he was ever ready to aid in any cause of benevolence. I remember when I once invited him to give a lecture for some object that was dear to me, he chose for his theme, "Heroic Charity," and it struck me then, as it does now, that he himself might be considered as exemplifying the subject in his own person. But his religious feelings became more intense and sincere during the long illness to which Providence was pleased to subject him. During the lonely hours of his convalescence, his mind pondered deeply on the great truths of religion, and he himself often spoke of the beneficial effects upon his soul of those consoling mysteries. The result of these meditations might be seen in the increased fervor with which he prepared to receive the Sacraments which Christ instituted, to satisfy the wants of the soul, and in the public fulfilment in this Church, on the day before he departed from Montreal, of those duties which are imposed upon Catholics at Easter time. This change might also be seen in the resolution which he kept so inviolably until the day of his death, to abstain from those social excesses which would mar so considerably the effect of his talents. Let those who are tempted as he was, appreciate the amount of self-sacrifice which such a resolution involved. Finally, this change might be seen in the earnest tones of the few writings or speeches which were lately prepared by him, but