

with political excitement, and the atmosphere was charged with moral explosives. The events of 1837 were close at hand. It chanced that Mr. Rodier was a brilliant speaker and a very popular champion of the people's rights, both in the Legislature and on the platform. He was also a leader of the historic "Sons of Liberty", and it was but natural that Cartier, young and impressionable, should have passed through what Sir Charles Fitzpatrick, in his speech on laying the foundation stone termed "*un rêve épique*". But the dreamer was, at heart, of loyal life, moderate in opinion and the friend and upholder of order. Cartier became, however, one of the insurgent organization and who, to-day, looking back at the events of the period, can say that he and his associates had no provocation? Mr. De Celles has, in his instructive biography of Cartier summed up the situation in the following words: "Cartier commenced with antagonism to a 'party' an insignificant minority which, having laid their hands on the government, used it for their special ends and profit, and denied to French-Canadians all the privileges and rights of British subjects. But as soon as self-government was granted to Lower Canada no more loyal upholder of the British Constitution than Cartier could be met in North America." It may safely be asserted that no British free-man, living in the "land which free-men till", would have calmly submitted to treatment of the unfair and unequal nature meted out to the Lower Canadians. Cartier, as already stated, became a leading member of the "Sons of Liberty" and composed the *Marseillaise* of the agitators: "*Avant tout je suis Canadien*". At the time, when feeling was at fever heat, it may have appeared to many to have bordered on the treasonable. To-day the burden of the song is inscribed on the monument, erected by the public in honour of the agitator who wrote it, and an approving touch of the King's finger has laid it bare to meet

the eye of all who pass by, that they who run may read.

Time passed on and right was done and then Sir George was seen playing another part as a citizen and political leader. The famous "annexation manifesto" of 1849 was published bearing the signature of a great number of people who had not been "Sons of Liberty" or branded as "rebels". One lived to be Premier of the Dominion and deliver his apologism on the floor of the Senate. In the front rank of those who opposed the disloyal band was Sir George Etienne Cartier, and a carefully-worded and wisely framed counter statement was issued. From that period Cartier's whole life was devoted to the "making of Canada", and advancing her interests beneath the inspiration and protection of British institutions and the British flag.

Not until the year 1848 did Cartier enter public life. Elected to represent his native county he went to Parliament as a supporter of the Lafontaine-Baldwin administration and took his seat in time to witness the destruction of the Parliament House at Montreal and the outrageous attack on the Earl of Elgin. He held the portfolio of Provincial Secretary, in the MacNab-Morin Government (1855) and, a little later, that of Attorney-General (Lower Canada) in the Taché-Macdonald administration (1856). The strong political tension of the period and remarkable party complications, brought the Cartier-Macdonald Cabinet into existence in 1858. As the First Minister of the Province of Canada, Cartier exhibited all his great powers, tact and skill as a statesman. His attention as Attorney-General East had been largely devoted to law reform and he has to be credited with the codification of the Civil Laws of Lower Canada and the decentralization of the Superior Courts. This was a long stride in the direction of facilitating legal procedure. Sir Charles Fitzpatrick has expressed the opinion that it also contributed to moral culture