

THE PRESBYTERIAN.

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THOMAS D'ARCY MCGEE.



ANADA has lost its most eloquent statesmen and one of its most accomplished *literati*. A poet by nature, he had cultivated his genius and taste to a high point, and was almost as skilful in verse as he was mighty in speech. A student of history, its lessons formed the views which he adopted and promulgated as a politician, and suggested the plans—many of them far-reaching—which he devised and set forth as a statesman. A lover of his native country, he was ever mindful of “the wrongs of Ireland,” and worked (latterly in a constitutional and therefore patriotic mode) for their removal. A lover of man, his thoughts and heart worked and beat for other nations than his own, and took into their all-embracing arms the nations and peoples of the world; especially those of the civilized world whose histories and literature had stored his mind with the principles which were guiding his course. A lover of his adopted country, he cherished for Canada an affection deep, invariable, unsurpassed. He threw himself into its interests with great ardour, with an enthusiasm almost heroic. A subject of HER MAJESTY, his admiration of British rule, and of the constitution under which Britain has flourished, was unbounded, therefore was he constrained to consecrate his great powers for the perpetuation in British North America of this beneficent rule, and this glorious constitution; and because he believed that such would be most surely maintained by Colonial Confederation, he became the earnest and indeed foremost advocate of this National Scheme. A firm believer in the divine authority of the Christian system, he acknowledged the blessings which Christianity has conferred upon mankind, while he was Catholic in his regard for those Christians who did not, like himself, belong to the Roman Communion. “*Equal rights to Protestants in Quebec*” was a controlling principle in the ordering of his political and otherwise public conduct.

Such was the late Honourable THOMAS D'ARCY MCGEE! It may be added, without unwarrantable intrusion into the domain of private life, that habits which had grown upon him, and which he always judged injurious to his character and prejudicial to his usefulness as a public man, were firmly and manfully broken off many months before his death. The writer of these lines is able to state that he felt the need of higher help than he possessed in himself, for faithfully maintaining his purpose of amendment. It is, moreover, made known by those who communed with him during a long illness from which he lately suffered, that, in the time of his being thus laid aside from public work, higher themes than those which Earth inspires had no light share in the occupancy of his mind. These facts were announced with admirable candour in the Oration which was spoken over his remains by the very Reverend Dr. O'FARRELL, in St. Patrick's Church, of which he was a member.

In the discharge of his duty as Member of the House of Commons for Montreal (West) Mr. McGee fell, by the hand of an assassin, on the morning of Tuesday the seventh day of April last, a victim, we fear, to the Fenianism whose wickedness he exposed and denounced; a martyr, certainly, for the constitutional principles for which he nobly fought in the arena of debate. The City which he represented in Parliament, buried him with princely honours, and the House of Commons has promptly, and with entire unanimity, made provision for those whom this diabolical murder has left in widowhood and orphanage. Our readers will join with us in the prayer that HE, too, may care for these sorrowing ones, who is a “Father of the Fatherless,” and “a Judge of the Widow.”