

from which he was promoted to British Guiana. In the former he exhibited that energy and decision of character for which he was noted ; he was much respected by all parties, and his departure was sincerely regretted.

We have no desire to become either the panegyrists or accusers of Mr. Hinck's policy, but we believe the good he did will far outweigh the bad. He acted on the motto so much favoured by a certain school of political economists that natural debts are not a disadvantage, and in our case there cannot be a question that the great public improvements which the last few years have produced, could not have been accomplished without great sacrifices, and the incurring of responsibilities which must affect the interests of the country. The sudden transition from the expenditure which attended our public works, to a state of comparative stagnation, was severely felt, and the more as the executive and departmental expenditure was constantly being increased. The most reprehensible measure introduced by Mr. Hincks was the Municipal Loan Fund, but that may be considered as forming a part of our rail-road system, and was in fact the only way by which our municipalities could have been induced to contribute to the construction of subsidiary lines.

To fully appreciate Mr. Hincks' character it was necessary to know him in private life, to meet him free from the cares of office and surrounded by his family and his friends. In public intercourse he was hasty, imperious, and often gave offence, restless, and impatient, and could ill bear contradiction or debate. His opinions were formed apparently on the spur of the moment, and he was not the man to forego an opinion he had once conceived. To those who knew him much of what was called bad temper appeared as if feigned and assumed, as a protection against intrusion. In the discharge of his departmental duties he was very just and very considerate, and we have heard those of his subordinates, who were most opposed to him in politics, speak of him in the highest terms, he was always ready to defend them, and often assisted them. In his own house he was hospitality itself ; of that genuine Irish quality he had more than average supply, and few had a greater facility in making themselves agreeable ; his information was extensive, and when he did unbend he had a happy turn for wit and could enjoy a joke, even at his own expense. He and his great political opponent, Mr. Abraham of the Gazette, frequently met at the table of Mr. Derbyshire, and then when the strifes of politics were left outside their conversation was extremely pleasing.

As a friend, Mr. Hincks was kind in the extreme ; like most men of the same temperament, his feelings were strong, whether of dislike or the contrary ; those who sought assistance at his hands seldom met a refusal.