

MR. J. S. WILLISON

province of Confederation for nearly a quarter of a century. He carried his Government triumphantly through five successive general elections. He held throughout all that period the undivided allegiance of his party, and he commanded also the sympathy and support of an influential wing of Conservatives. He withdrew at last to become Minister of Justice at the federal capital; and he thence returned, when four-score years had settled upon his head, to the familiar surroundings of his vigorous manhood. And there as Governor of his native province he maintained until his life's end his active connexion with public affairs. He goes to his grave honoured by Canadians of all parties, classes and creeds, and he leaves a record of service and achievement as fragrant and as honourable as any that Canadians are permitted to cherish.

'Sir Oliver Mowat's career covers many of the most eventful chapters in Canadian history. In 1857 he entered the old Parliament of United Canada as member for South Ontario. George Brown was then at the zenith of his power; and under his strong and aggressive leadership the Liberals of Upper Canada were waging a strenuous fight against the preponderant power of Quebec in the common legislature, and against the introduction of the separate school system into Upper Canada. The election literature of Mr. Mowat's first contest was of an exceedingly vigorous character, and was, perhaps, hardly consistent with the temper of the candidate. He was never so much of a zealot as was George

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