

THE OLD LOYALIST AT REST

est son! A great political chieftain has gone! Our beloved Premier is dead!"

Then, laying the paper down on the table and leaning upon the latter, Sir George said, with evident emotion: "True, children, alas! 'tis true. Our great leader is gone, and Canada to-day is mourning over his departure. We cannot realize yet what a loss we have sustained, but future generations will look back and see his life and character in their true perspective. By his wise statesmanship and constant devotion to duty, a great nation has been welded together out of a few scattered, disjointed provinces. Not only has he done his best for our country at home, but at Washington and London he has stood up boldly for our best interests, and I am glad to know that our good Queen has honored him on more than one occasion. He has stood for integrity and purity, in private as well as in public life. He dies to-day a poor man—greatly to his credit—as he would not permit himself to become soiled with dishonest gain, like many men in public life have done in the past in this and other countries.

"He has laid a foundation, broad and deep, upon which there shall now assuredly be built one of the most prosperous and, let us trust, most upright nations in this great, wide world. The Premier had his faults—who of us have not?—but, notwithstanding these and all the evil influences that surrounded him, he had a faith in God which, I verily believe from our conversations from time to time, grew stronger and stronger toward the close of his life, and which I trust gave him the victory when he to-day, after a severe illness, forever laid down the weapons of his warfare. I shall expect to meet him soon, for I, too, shall be gathered home to my fathers in the not distant future."