

Mr. Mills' Address.

From the London (Canada) Advertiser.

The Hon. David Mills, K.C., Minister of Justice of the Dominion of Canada, delivered the following address at Highgate, Ontario, Canada, August 28th, 1901. Mr. Mills was in good form and held the close attention of his intelligent audience, which included many ladies. On being introduced by the chairman, the Minister of Justice was enthusiastically received. He said :

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—Several years have gone by since I had the honor of addressing a meeting in this place. One of the last occasions upon which I spoke to you was when the country was agitated because the Government of Canada had failed to disallow an act passed by the Legislature of Quebec, known as the Jesuit's Estate Act. On that occasion I felt it my duty to defend the course taken by the administration, although I was not a supporter of the government. It was impossible to successfully attack what was then made the subject of censure, without assuming that the principals of parliamentary government were not to have full play in the provinces, in matters of purely provincial concern. The views which I then expressed were such as I believed were called for, both by the letter and spirit of our constitution. I felt assured that the agitation which was then awakened was without any foundation, moral or constitutional, upon which it could permanently rest. My convictions have been verified, and long since this question has ceased to be a disturbing factor in public affairs.

Since then great changes have taken place in the personnel of the House of Commons, and in the political complexion of the Senate. For a long time after I became a member of the House of Commons this township continued to be a part of the electoral division of Bothwell, and during the whole of that period, the Reformers, who constituted more than two-thirds of the electors, intrusted me with their confidence. I need not say to you that I valued that confidence most highly, and it was my aim then, as it has been since, to endeavor to