

ship the Mayor to what fell from me at London, and that at some future day I may be among you again. (Tremendous cheering.) At any rate, of this you may be assured, that whenever Canada wants a friend, she will have a humble, but, to the extent of his ability, a zealous and faithful friend in Lord Elgin."

THE EARL OF ELGIN AND KINCARDINE.

From the London Times.

The public will learn with the deepest sorrow and anxiety that news of the death of Lord Elgin has been received. The public must therefore be prepared for the loss of one of the most able public servants that the country possesses.

Lord Elgin, who left us but the other day to relieve the dying Lord Canning, as the latter relieved the dying Lord Dalhousie, will in all probability never again see the land of his birth, or enjoy the honors and rest which should be the recompense of his great services. It is, indeed, a dreadful price that we pay for an Asiatic Empire. Whether the constitutions of men in these days, or their previous habits of life are less fitted to a tropical climate, or whether it be that the work and the responsibility are more oppressive than of yore, there has certainly been a mortality among the chiefs of the Indian Administration which is enough to deter men of eminence from attempting it. Every mail brings us the tidings of some one breaking down; of some one retiring for a time, or resigning altogether, on the ground of ill health; and besides the two former Governors-General whom we have mentioned, there is also Lord Elphinstone, who, in scarcely lower posts at Madras and Bombay, showed great administrative abilities, and was snatched away in the full vigor of youth.

The country has thus lost the third of a remarkable list of men, who, after having governed India with transcendent brilliancy and success, have been removed without having an interval granted them to repose in the greatness they have achieved. Lords Dalhousie, Canning and Elgin, were almost of an age; they were all at Christ Church together, and entered public life about the same time. Lord Dalhousie, at an unusually early age, was placed at the head of the Indian Empire, and governed with an ability and spirit which must be acknowledged even by those who look upon some of his measures as unjust and in their result calamitous. He returned home to linger and die, and was succeeded by Lord Canning, who, going to India with the hope of passing his term of service in the furtherance of peaceful prosperity, found himself engaged during the greater part of his reign in suppressing the most formidable insurrection in modern annals. Lord Elgin succeeded him with the general approbation of the country, founded on his able services in other departments. In 1842 he was made Governor of Jamaica, and was promoted in 1846 to the Governor Generalship of British North America, where he carried through the well known reciprocity treaty with the United States, which has been the source of such benefits to Canada. Lord Elgin's services during his missions to China are so recent and so well known that we need hardly recall them to the memory of our readers. In the spring of 1857 he was sent to the East, and though the Indian mutiny delayed operations for a time, he did not leave China until he had not only signed a treaty with the Imperial Commissioners at Tientsin, but had also broken the spell of Japanese Isolation, and, entering the harbour of Jeddo, surprised the Government into consenting to intercourse with the European world. His second embassy to China was as successful as the first; the capture of Peking was followed by the treaty of October, 14, 1860, and the way opened to that extended commerce which promises to bring the Chinese Empire under the influence of European civilization.

These eminent services pointed out Lord Elgin for the most splendid vicereignty under the Crown, and he proceeded to the East, for the third time, to relieve Lord Canning as Governor-General of India. We believe he had suffered from heart-complaint; and though he took great care of his health, particularly avoiding the heat of the sun, it was this malady which, assuming an acute form, prostrated him with the illness which has ended fatally. The Governor-General was in the North-West Provinces; he had passed the hot season at Simla, had lately been traversing some elevated tracks in the Himalayas, and had, it is said, a few days before his illness ascended to a point 13,000 feet high. It may be that this exertion was too much for a constitution, though apparently good, had suffered somewhat from repeated residence in hot climates. Lord Elgin, who was to meet Sir Hugh Rose at Lahore, was taken, it appears, suddenly and dangerously ill, and breathed his last on the 20 ult.

So falls another of the able and patriotic men by whom the empire of England has been founded and maintained. It may be some consolation to a man to know that he dies serving his country; but, on the other hand, it is bitter for him to feel that he is cut off when only in middle age, with his work half undone, and the happy pros-

pects of public prosperity and private honor clouded for ever. Lord Elgin was not destined to see the full consequences of his courage and ability in China, nor the development of Indian prosperity under his peaceful rule.—To successors we must leave the carrying out of the changes which he began, and there can be no greater disappointments to an active and ambitious spirit. It is strange to reflect that not a single Governor General remains alive, except Lord Ellenborough, who went out two-and-twenty years ago. Lord Auckland has been long since dead, Lord Hardinge is dead, the Marquis of Dalhousie and Lord Canning have both been carried to early graves. Lord Elgin, follows then at the age of 52, leaving the great but fatal prize of the official world once more in the gift of the Premier, who has seen so many recipients of it pass away.

LORD ELGIN.

(From the Toronto Globe, December 25th.)

We lately copied from the *Times* so full a record of the recent public services of this late lamented nobleman, that it is not necessary to dwell upon them here. We cannot allow the opportunity to pass, however, of saying a grateful word on behalf of a true friend of Canada. The English journals which have spoken of Lord Elgin's career have a very incorrect conception of his work in this country, though they rightly award it praise. There can be no question that he was the best administrator of public affairs ever sent to represent the Crown in Canada. He possessed in a very high degree that description of intellect which enables a man to appreciate the position and feelings of a community. He not only knew and understood individuals, but also classes of men. He delighted in social intercourse, and never showed to so much advantage as when he was addressing a mixed multitude, whom he had never seen before, but of whose feelings and prejudices he seemed to be, as by intuition, thoroughly aware. Many of our readers will recall occasions, during his career in Canada, when he crossed the border, and being cordially welcomed by our neighbours, he paid them by speeches which, while thoroughly appropriate to his own position, were calculated to gratify every instinct and feeling of the American mind, and to send the audience away intensely pleased with themselves, the orator, and the world at large. And this was accomplished by no gross flattery, but with a tact and skill so easy and natural as to be invisible to the ordinary observer. Many readers will recall the Boston railway celebration, when, amidst all the great speakers that New England could assemble, Lord Elgin bore away the palm, the chief personage of that immense gathering in oratory as well as rank and breeding.

Lord Elgin possessed a sound judgement, much knowledge of affairs, and, as we have said, a great natural and acquired capacity for oratory; but it was his knowledge of mankind, and skill in dealing with them, which made him so good a constitutional ruler of a colony. In Canada we do not want as Governor a man of letters like Sir Edmund Head, or a determined and original organizer like Sir Charles Metcalf. We do not want a pedagogue, either, to teach or to drive us. The qualities of a diplomatist are what is needed, but a diplomatist who has lived in countries gifted with constitutions, accustomed to straightforward, honourable dealing, and averse to intrigue. Lord Elgin had all the abilities of a diplomatist as he showed afterwards in China and Japan. He was as much at home in dealing with a Mandarin at Peking as addressing a meeting of persons in the back woods of Canada.

Like most men of his class in Britain, Lord Elgin had a leaning towards Conservatism. Doubtless he considered that the *statu quo* in the mother country was as near perfection as could be desired. But his Conservatism did not take the shape of applying one rule to all countries and to all positions. He was a thorough free-trader, accepting in all their fulness the doctrines of Sir Robert Peel, and believing them to be the chief agents in promoting the greatness of Britain. And he thoroughly appreciated the fact that it was impossible to apply rules to Canada which answered admirably in Britain. He would have laughed at the idea of introducing an aristocracy into Canada, if any one had been absurd enough to suggest it to him. He knew the country, and the men who inhabit it, too well to conceive that such a scheme was practicable. He also appreciated thoroughly the relations of Canada towards the United States. He saw that the safety of the Province as a dependency of Britain rested on the cultivation of good feeling with the Republic, that spiteful railing and boorish non-intercourse would produce quarrels between the two countries, and discontent among large sections of our own people. He was aware that neither commercial nor social intercourse with the Americans would in any way weaken the attachment of Canadians to the mother country, and he was far above permitting national prejudice to interfere with what was salutary. He adopted every means of cultivating social intercourse with the Americans, and at length crowned his work with the Reciprocity Treaty, which has proved eminently beneficial to both countries.