

those opponents was the Hon. Edward Blake, and the feeling of sorrow to which he gave expression before the Judicial Committee on Thursday will find a sympathetic echo among all the political opponents of Sir John Thompson's Government in Canada. There is, indeed, no party and no class in Canada that will not deplore his death as a terrible loss to the public life of Canada. Everyone who differed from him, either on religious or political questions, recognized his sterling character and unqualified integrity as well as his ability, and it is, I believe, no exaggeration to say that he leaves no enemy in the whole of the Dominion.

But it was not only as a colleague at Ottawa that I had the good fortune to be associated with Sir John Thompson. He was, as you may know, counsel on behalf of the United States Government before the Fishery Commission which sat at Halifax under the Washington Treaty; and when I was invited by the Governor-General and Sir John Macdonald to allow my name to be submitted to Her Majesty's Government as Plenipotentiary to Washington in connection with the Atlantic Fishery question in 1887, I only accepted on condition that Mr. Thompson should accompany me as legal adviser to the British side. I never regretted that condition, and the other British Plenipotentiaries—Mr. Chamberlain and Lord Sackville—soon learnt to appreciate his command of the question. We were all daily more impressed with him. Mr. Chamberlain sent me a telegram on the day of the death, expressing his deep regret and sympathy with Canada. "I was," he adds, "associated with Sir John during the negotiations at Washington, and learned to appreciate his worth and ability." Similarly, Lord Sackville, writing to me since the sad event, says:—"I sincerely condole with you and the Dominion of Canada on the death of Sir John Thompson. His great merits can only be appreciated by those who knew him, and his loss at this moment is a national calamity. The spirit which dictated his policy towards the Mother Land has been fully recognized, and will, let us hope, continue to animate both Governments." And then, if you seek to know what was thought of him in the United States, there is this singularly happy expression of sympathy from Mr. Bayard, the United States Ambassador in this country. "His worth, ability, and patriotism," says Mr. Bayard, "were well known to me, and I lament his loss, not alone for Canada, but for the community of good government everywhere. I am glad to see that honor is being paid by Her Majesty's Government by conveying his remains in a national ship to the shores of the country he loved so well and served so faithfully, and had there been any way of testifying my personal respect for his memory, I would promptly have availed myself of it. Will you do me the kindness, when it can be done without intrusion, to make expression of my sincere condolence and sympathy to the bereaved widow and family of the deceased statesman."

How fully this appreciation of Sir John Thompson's character came to be shared by the public men of this country may be judged by the fact that, though Premier of one of the countries most deeply concerned in the Behring Sea dispute, Her Majesty's Ministers placed such confidence in his judicial fairness and broad statesmanship that he was

appointed one of the British arbitrators upon the international tribunal, and Lord Hannen, Lord Russell of Killowen, Sir Richard Webster, as well as Her Majesty's Ministers, have put on record their appreciation of his clear grasp of all the points of that very difficult question, and his unswerving determination to find a just settlement to an unhappy international quarrel. One of the first callers upon him during his last visit to England was Sir Richard Webster. He was to dine with that distinguished advocate on Saturday, and with Lord Russell on Monday, and we were to spend Sunday and Monday with Lord Mount Stephen at Brocket Hall.

Of Sir John Thompson's loyalty to Canadian interests, one of his late State papers, the memorandum on the Copyright question, speaks with a power all its own, and of his close attachment to British institutions you can have no better evidence than the last word which fell from his lips in public at the Royal Colonial Institute meeting on Tuesday. It was an earnest plea for Imperial recognition and co-operation in a movement of the highest importance to British interests. His words have a sad, almost prophetic, interest now. "I have not," he said in his closing sentence, "the opportunity or the strength to deal fully this evening with these possibilities (arising out of the Ottawa Conference), but I venture to hope that the influence of this meeting and the influence of all who sympathise with our projects will be liberally extended to us, and that the feeling may be increased here, as it exists in the most distant portions of the Empire, that the day has come not only when the Colonies should be united more closely together, but when they should be more practically useful in connection with the heart of the Empire itself." And the same spirit breathed through his speech at the Ottawa Conference. The closing passage may well be remembered. It ran thus:—

We cannot but recall, on this occasion, that conferences have taken place in the Colonies at which they deliberated, after years of great development and progress, whether the relations which bound them within the Empire were not too restrictive for their future progress, and whether the time had not come when a separation should take place from the Mother Land. On this happy occasion, these delegates assemble after long years of self-government in their countries, of greater progress and development than the Colonies of any Empire has ever seen in the past, not to consider the prospects of separation from the Mother Country, but to plight our faith anew to each other as brethren and to plight anew with the Mother Land that faith that has never yet been broken or tarnished.

ONTARIO AT THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

Frequent mention has been made in these pages, and a description given of the Imperial Institute in London. This Institute was intended to disseminate knowledge regarding the whole British Empire, each Colony and portion of the Empire being assigned suitable space in which to make exhibits illustrating its leading industries. We have also heretofore alluded to the fact that the Government of Ontario had appointed a curator, and caused a fine exhibit of products to be prepared and sent to the Institute. This Ontario Section was formally opened to the