

who belong emphatically to their country, whom all are proud to know as Canadian citizens, and to whose worth and merits all are glad to pay tribute. And after that eloquent tribute which the Honourable gentleman has paid to the memory of Sir John Thompson, what can words of mine avail? What can any words avail in the face of that splendid exhibition of sentiment which commenced at Windsor and flashed itself out along the chords of sympathy, under sea and over land, until in the remotest part of the world, wherever British institutions are established and the British flag waves, there vibrated the plaintive lament for a great man who had lived and, alas, was now dead; a man distinguished above others in the greatest of the possessions of Great Britain, a man honoured above others in the Empire itself, a man whose life contributed great and invaluable factors to the public spirit, the development and the future greatness of both? What words can avail in the face of that tender solicitude and that unfeigned sorrow of Her Most Gracious Majesty herself, and of that significant pomp and circumstance which followed him from the scene of his tragic and sudden death, accompanied him across the sea panoplied in the symbols of Britain's might by sea and land, and never left him until, in his native city, the tender blue sky and sorrowing multitudes of friends bent over the grave in which his mortal remains were laid to rest? We may strew our flowers, we may drop our tears, we may keep the last sad vigils with the dead, and after all is done, what remains? In one sense, nothing; but in another and better sense, much remains. There remains to us his memory, instinct with loving reminiscences, pregnant with noble impulses and ideals. For, after all, when we think of it, the career of Sir John Thompson was a phenomenal career. Known and loved by his circle of intimate friends for many years before he was widely known in Canada, it may be truly said of him that he came to be known to the larger public in 1885, and the short span of ten years saw his rise and his glorious and tragic death. In 1885 he entered the Ministry. In 1886 he took first rank as a debater and statesman in this House. In the few years that passed he gained the confidence of both sides of this House, and he went from honour to honour until he became Premier of this country, in judicial matters attaining proud pre-eminence and on one of the greatest tribunals that the world ever saw, and upon a most important case—easily the peer of any who sat with him, until, at the last, under the highest honours that his Sovereign could bestow, his life went out