

expressing those thoughts in language at once chaste, vigorous and luminous. As a debater, he is without a superior; but where he excels all possible rivals is in his unequalled powers of invective and sarcasm. It is a common complaint, among those opposed to him, that he uses these powers too freely; but they should bear in mind the provocation he received. Too often, unfortunately, have political discussions in this country been disgraced by neglect of the ordinary amenities of polite society; but never, in his most trenchant moods, when stung to the quick by the ungenerous taunts of his opponents, has Sir Richard forgotten that he was a gentleman or failed to clothe in the most elegant terms his most biting sarcasms. On all occasions, he is true to himself. Anything like deception is abhorrent to his very nature. Indeed, it may be said that whatever failure may be attributed to him as a politician has arisen from the chivalrous candour and frankness with which he always conceded the strength and weight of the arguments brought against him. This faculty, unhappily too rare in Canadian public life, shone forth conspicuously when he occupied the position of Minister of Finance in the Mackenzie administration. If regarded on their merits, entirely apart from party politics, I think it will be admitted that no more just, clear, or forcible expositions, or more statesmanlike utterances on the great questions of legislation concerning matters of finance and commerce can be found anywhere than in his speeches.

Cartwright was a name of high and honourable repute in the history of Canada long before the subject of the present memoir won for it the renown of his brilliant abilities and splendid oratory. The founder of the American branch of the family emigrated from England, arriving at New York, on the ship "Dolphin," in the year 1742. His son, the honourable Richard Cartwright, grand-father of Sir Richard, was born at Albany, in the state of New-York, then a British colony, on the 2nd of February, 1759. Enjoying the advantages of high social position and a liberal education, the prospect of a brilliant career was opened before him. He possessed, as we learn from his biographer, "those qualities in a most eminent degree, which constitute a great character and a virtuous man;" but he had no ambition to figure in public life and, after mature deliberation, he turned his views to the church. The better to fit himself for his sacred calling, he devoted his time to the study of Greek and Hebrew; but, in the