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*THE MACKENZIE MEMORIAL EULOGY.*

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and effective speech, he was probably in his best days without an equal either upon the public platform or on the floor of the House of Commons.

The influence of heredity has seldom been accorded a sufficiently important place in our estimate of character. The elements that enter as determining factors are frequently transmitted. Behind every human life there is a history that runs back farther than we either think or dream. Neither saints nor reprobates are produced as photographs by instantaneous process. A child is fortunate that has come of a good stock. The stream of tendencies which flows from a noble or ignoble ancestry exerts no small influence in determining the quality and potency of being. Alexander Mackenzie's parents were not endowed with material riches, but they had what was of immeasurably greater value—they had healthy minds and pure hearts, intellectual vigor and sterling principles; they had not what is called blue blood flowing through their veins, but they had blood that had not been tainted by hereditary dissipation. The boy born into this life with a nature upon which the virtuous and industrious living of generations has been exerting its influence may well be envied whatever his worldly circumstances might chance to be.

It would be exceedingly presumptuous in me upon this platform, sacred to the study and application of divine principles, to venture upon