

**LATE SIR OLIVER MOWAT.**

ONE by one the great men, who have figured in the public life of Canada, are passing away. The last to submit to the effects of advanced age and accident is that distinguished patriot and Christian gentleman whom all high-minded Canadians revere and love, Sir Oliver Mowat. Local interest in his case has been intense, and local sorrow over his death has been unduly moved, because here he began his eminent and successful career. Here the name of Mowat, beginning with a merchant of marked integrity, and extending through succeeding generations, is held in great honor and respect.

Sir Oliver was early given to politics, and when a young lawyer participated in Kingston's campaigns. He contested the representation of the city with Sir John Macdonald, when both were comparatively untried in political service. Removing to Toronto Sir Oliver, after serving as an alderman, entered parliament and was a member of several governments. He was one of the fathers of confederation, and assisted in the inauguration of conditions which made for the unity and peace of the Canadian people.

In 1864 Sir Oliver was made a judge in the chancery court, and brought to it that erudition and judgment which were characteristic of all his public labours. It was a surprise to many when he returned to political life in 1872 at the call of his party, but it was a good thing for Ontario, for under his government there was for many long years an administration of public affairs which commanded the confidence of the electors, and they gave evidence of it again and again.

In 1896, when the liberals succeeded to power in the Dominion, Sir Oliver was called to the government and occupied the office of minister of justice, but he held it only a year, and then accepted the honored place of lieutenant-governor of Ontario. The effect of two accidents which befell him, added to the infirmities of old age, closed his long and dignified career.

Looking back and contemplating the work of this man, one is moved to a sense of gratitude that he lived and left his impress on the times. No representative of the people could have served them with more devotion, earnestness and honesty. His was a commanding intellect, his a mind which comprehended the virtues of passing events, his the judgment which enabled him to act with clearness, with courage and decision. He did not intrude his personality upon the world. He simply possessed a commanding ability and won on his merits the allegiance of his friends.

In due time he left the scene of his many triumphs, in the assembly, to be succeeded by the men who had been his colleagues and confidants. His work, however, remained, and it follows him and pays tribute to his worth. He disappears from the stage as all men must do in the lapse of time, but he will not be forgotten. The history of Canada for over forty years will bear testimony to his service as a legislator and leader—and the students of the future, in scanning the pages to learn of the men who reached distinction in state-craft, will have occasion to linger over the name of Oliver Mowat, the jurist, philosopher, patriot, premier. It will be high up in the country's scroll of honors.