
Rev. J. A. Macdonald

wondering why it was not even more passionate, with such a pack of Tory scoundrels at Ottawa violating Mosaic laws. Presently predestination took him out of St. Thomas and he became editor of the *Westminster*, a Presbyterian monthly, by means of which he was enabled to merge a number of little Presbyterian papers into a syndicate.

With Sir Wilfrid Laurier as a co-inspiration to John Knox, the very year that Laurier swept into power at Ottawa, J. A. Macdonald became the Principal of a Presbyterian ladies' college. He dallied in a bower of valedictory roses and elocution. He studied the peace movement. On platforms both in Canada and the United States he told of his fighting ancestors, glorying in their deeds with claymore and battle-axe—and preaching peace. And when any sceptic asked why such a brawny, cloud-splitting man could do such a thing, it was to reply—

“Well, you see, he is Principal of a ladies' college.”

The dynamo Principal was getting ready for another foreordained metamorphosis. During those five years of his dalliance with lingered curricula, Canada and its politics were undergoing marvellous changes. His chief Laurier and an aggressive Cabinet were making a new twentieth-century Canada. The west was coming to the east and the new world was going to the west. Mere preaching was no longer the great thing. Behind the scenes a play was going on, and the actors were the editor of the *Toronto Globe*, the directors thereof, and a capitalist who desired to start an independent newspaper that should tell the truth about politics no matter whom the truth hit—for a while. It might have been expected that such a reform movement would have caught up Macdonald in a cloud. But almost as sudden as a bomb from a Zeppelin, John S. Willison resigned from the *Globe* to become editor of the *Toronto News*, backed by Mr. J. W. Flavelle. The sanctum of the *Globe* was vacant.

“Macdonald's the man,” said Senator Jaffray,