

savings just as a simple householder ; about the building of railways just as a railroad president ; and all this in no theoretical or visionary way, but in a fashion the most practically orthodox, minute and provident. Thus the Montreal City and District Savings Bank, placed so high in the world of finance, has lost nothing by electing him as one of its directors, any more than the French bankers find that they have made a mistake by naming him President in Canada of the *Crédit-foncier*.

Another quality much admired in him is the absence of all rancour. He has given blows enough in his life not to be surprised at receiving some in return. He has been sometimes abandoned, betrayed by some friends, threatened by others, deceived, played with, insulted. These reverses and griefs he bears with dignity ; but he never suffers a chance to escape of effecting a reconciliation when circumstances render it honourable. His friends know this well. He can handle them roughly, use them harshly, refuse them the good offices asked for even in an ungracious way, neglect them, vex them, perhaps, by remarks too sharp, but the first moment of ill-humour over, they confess that they love him too much to keep this in mind. This indulgence is the result of his sincerity, which no man doubts. It is well known that if he is guilty of a fault, it is only through excessive frankness ; and in reality this venial fault is nothing more than a very great quality essential in a leader of men. Wherefore, Mr. Chapleau can boast of a picked body of friends—faithful, devoted, solid, and remarkably intelligent.

He is a parliamentary tactician of the first order. From the time that he took the leadership of the Conservative party at Quebec, never has an adversary been able to force his hand, not even a man of the strength of the Honourable Mr. Irvine, whose witty phrase, when Mr. Chapleau left the Quebec House in 1882, I cannot forget : "From the moment Chapleau goes, I see no more what I have to do here." The fact is that during his struggle against the Joly Government and as Prime Minister at Quebec he has displayed the most powerful qualities as a statesman. He has been active, firm, provident, full of resources, equally strong in attack and in defence, and his own rear-guard remained unassailable. He pushed matters strongly because of his quick perception