

was usually good to conjure with, he was never without a party opposed to him, and by that party and its organs he was constantly and bitterly assailed. The most impartial mind, it was long ago remarked, can hardly avoid being biassed against Sir John Macdonald by the language of his friends, and in his favour by the language of his foes. His friends hailed him, with ecstatic admiration, as the maker of Canada and the honoured chieftain of his party; his enemies saw in him only a monster of political crime. By the henchmen of party he was esteemed an ideal leader, and there is no doubt that he possessed in a wonderful degree the gifts that attract and weld together a party following. Of recent years he had become the object of excessive party worship, a worship so idolatrous as to close the eyes of his adherents to his shortcomings and faults. This was specially manifest in the effective campaign cry of the last General Election, when "The Old Man, the Old Policy, and the Old Flag" was the enthusiasm-compelling watchword of the Tory party. By the ebb and flow of party fortune Sir John Macdonald has rarely been affected. He once has he suffered conspicuously from the withdrawal of the public favour, and even in that case public morality made haste to make amends for averting for a time its face. Temporary reverses, of course, he now and again met with, and violent at times was the rancour of those opposed to him; but he rarely had to meet opposition from within, while disaffection and rivalry were almost unknown factors in his own camp. To an extraordinary extent he could depend upon the devotion and attachment of friends, and loyalty to him and his cause was almost a fetich among his worshippers.

It would be difficult in a word or two to say what were the causes of Sir John Macdonald's success as a Canadian statesman. Not a little of the interest that attaches to his career arises from the long period over which his public life extends and his hearty sympathy with the national aspirations. To these may be added the entire and disinterested devotion, which he always evinced, to the material interests of the country, and his long-time and complete identification with