

## REPLY OF HIS EXCELLENCY TO THE ADDRESS OF BOTH HOUSES.

The Speaker of the Senate in French, and the Speaker of the Commons in English, read to His Excellency the joint address passed by both Houses.

To this His EXCELLENCY replied as follows :

The source and character of this address combine to render it conspicuous and memorable in my estimation as an express token to be prized with no ordinary sense of satisfaction and appreciation.

The mere fact that this manifestation has emanated from the two Houses of Parliament would render it interesting and significant. But this is not one of those occurrences or proceedings where the action itself is everything, and the manner and method of its performance of comparatively little account. A declaration of your well-known loyalty to the Queen, and of good-will towards her representative, is doubtless something to be welcomed with great satisfaction, but in addition to that aspect of the matter you have offered to us assurances of discriminating kindness which cannot fail to be gratefully received by those to whom these evidently sincere and cordial expressions are addressed.

It may possibly be within your knowledge, gentlemen, that when entering upon the honourable position which I have been privileged to occupy for nearly five years, I stated, after taking the oaths of office, that it was my clear duty and my aim to make the service of Canada the main principle and purpose of my life while in this country. To be reminded of that utterance is to be reminded of much inadequacy and many omissions on my part ; but if in any degree I have been enabled to keep that aim in view, and to endeavour to act in accordance therewith this has been due, humanly speaking, especially and emphatically, to the constant co-operation, the ever ready and suggestive sympathy of one whose devotion to the interests and welfare of Canada you have thoughtfully referred to in terms no less generous than just.

With the manifold experiences of the past five years you can readily believe that no one occupying a public position, and especially the position of the representative of the Crown, in this loyal and hospitable country, could pass that amount of time amongst you in all parts of the Dominion, without acquiring a large amount of information and experiencing a vast amount of kindness and consideration. To leave our many friends and acquaintances adds inevitably to the regret with which we contemplate our departure,

but we also feel that those friendships and acquaintanceships are an abiding possession, not to be abolished by absence, and while alluding to this, let me remark that this element in our Canadian experience commenced before we came to this country in our official capacity. We were here in earlier days ; and it was during our first voyage hither, before setting foot on your shores, that some lifelong friendships with several eminent Canadians were commenced. It was thus that we met that truly noble man, Sir John Thompson—a man of rare and splendid gifts, and not only so, but one who was imbued with the spirit to devote those gifts unreservedly for the good of this country—one whose sound principles and high standards could not fail to have an ennobling influence on all the phases of public life with which he had to deal.

I allude to him as the first as well as one of the most eminent of all our Canadian friends, and also as one of the three premiers to each of whom I have had the privilege of announcing the bestowal of honours at the hand of the Queen. The last of these was on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty, when Canada was so well represented at that historic and memorable celebration by the Prime Minister. I may be permitted to congratulate him regarding those auspicious circumstances, and also, with reference to this address, to thank him, not only officially as the mover thereof in the House of Commons, but personally as a friend, because of the manner in which he has always shown how truly he has been actuated at all times by those sentiments which are here expressed and set forth.

In conclusion, gentlemen, allow me to exchange felicitations with you upon what you have referred to with just satisfaction, as to the marks of progress and prosperity for Canada in various departments of her national life. In alluding to one important feature of these, I am tempted to quote the words of a distinguished predecessor uttered by him in this House, also to a farewell address from the two Houses of Parliament. In the course of his eloquent reply, Lord Dufferin said :

“I found you a loyal people. I leave you the truest-hearted subjects in Her Majesty's dominions. I found you proud of your descent, and anxious to maintain your connection with the mother country. I leave you, more convinced than ever of the solicitude of Great Britain to reciprocate your affection, and of her dependence on your fidelity in every emergency.”

And when I have the privilege, in accordance with the mission entrusted to me by you in this address, of presenting to our gracious Queen the assurance of your unswerving and patriotic devotion, I shall, again quoting the words of that former Viceroy, be able to assure her that not a leaf has fallen from her maple chaplet, and that the lustre of no jewel in her transatlantic diadem has been dimmed. (Applause.)