

less verbosity. One of the highest compliments which can be paid to any public speaker was, by the common consent of reporters, his due. His speeches would uniformly bear publication just as they were delivered, without those abundant corrections, modifications and elisions for which many an orator of renown has to thank the skilful reporter.

Space would fail to tell of the course of the struggle in the old Parliament of Canada for the reforms above indicated. Suffice it to say that Mr. Mackenzie took a yeoman's part in the fight. For several years after Confederation Mr. Mackenzie held seats in both the Dominion Parliament and the Ontario Legislature, as was permissible until forbidden by an Act of the Local Legislature. In the latter capacity he served as the first and ablest lieutenant of Mr. Edward Blake, and on Mr. Blake's coming into power, Mr. Mackenzie was made Provincial Treasurer, a position which he filled with much ability. In the Dominion he soon became the recognized leader of the Opposition which was shortly organized against the coalition government of which Sir John A. Macdonald was leader. The years which intervened between the first session of the Dominion Parliament and the downfall of Sir John's Administration, in 1873, were memorable years. Many important questions were debated with great ability by the opposing forces. Some legislative acts and precedents, which were sternly opposed by the party under Mr. Mackenzie's leadership, have had much to do with determining the course of subsequent events, and the influence of some of them, baneful or otherwise, as viewed by the opposite parties, is still powerful in shaping the course of Canadian history. It will be for posterity to decide whose principles were the sounder, and whose political foresight the clearer, in regard to these. We are still too near the scene of action to get the correct perspective.

Mr. Mackenzie was Premier of Canada from the 7th of November, 1873, to the 16th of October, 1878. The events which led to his accession to power and to his overthrow, with the history of the intervening years, would afford material for a chapter. I must dismiss it with a single remark. It has become customary in some newspaper circles to speak of the years of Mr. Mackenzie's administration as comparatively barren of important legis-