

leader and displayed a brilliancy of parts seldom surpassed. Me-thinks I hear ringing in my ears, clarion-like, his eloquent *harangue*, the first he delivered as chief. Its every note was a defiant challenge to the enemy, whom he pilloried, in scathing terms, for their unpatriotic conduct and narrow mindedness. He upheld the strength and dignity of our provincial institutions and stigmatized the Mackenzie government as the sworn enemy of the province of Quebec. He finished a celebrated speech by a celebrated peroration wherein he cried: "The Grits must be driven out of power at Ottawa with whip and lash." The language was strong, but justified by the circumstances. It is an open secret that, in 1875, Mr. Mackenzie, a man otherwise possessed of estimable qualities, ruled as an autocrat and deprived our province of its legitimate influence: Mr. Angers' severe arraignment of the Grit policy could not, consequently, be regarded as ill-timed. Mr. Holton's words in characterizing the legislature of Quebec as a moribund legislature was still fresh in the minds of all and justified the Solicitor-General's powerful speech, —a speech that was greeted with thunders of applause from the right of the speaker. The Grit fabric that, mushroom-like, sprung up in 1874, seemed to totter to its fall under the sledge-hammer blows dealt in the merciless philippic of the youthful leader. Mr. Angers resumed his seat amidst a scene of the wildest excitement and enthusiasm. From that proud moment dated the consolidation of his power and authority as the chief of his party.

The newspapers of the day recorded the memorable occasion, *l'Événement* itself, the organ of the Liberals, congratulating Mr. Angers on his success. "We cannot," it proclaimed in its issue of the following day, "be blind to talent even when arrayed against us to the right of the Throne. It must be acknowledged that Mr. Angers' speech was calculated to powerfully affect his followers. The new leader, despite his sins against good taste at times, showed that he was made of the stuff that furnishes the *forum* with its brightest ornaments."

This eulogium, hampered though it was by restrictions, coming from a journal like *l'Événement*, that, in 1875, was the mouth-piece of the opposition, of Messrs. Joly, Marchand, Bachand and Langelier,—was worth whole volumes of praise.

At the epoch here recorded, the hero of this biographical sketch