

sometimes the curious exigencies of politics, but, nevertheless, from him a complaint has never been heard. The fact is that he has never troubled himself to find out if his role in the Government was an indifferent or an essential factor. Political duty attracts him as the pole attracts the magnet. We have seen him throw himself into the *mêlée* always with the same impetuosity and the same devotion, winning elections thought impossible, in Montreal East, in Richelieu, in Napierreville, and God knows that Mr. Chapleau is a man of elections. There it is that he reveals that wonderful combination of faculties, power of work, fecundity of genius, firmness and suppleness, personal magnetism, incessant activity, nature of iron, which delights amidst sleepless nights, storms, cold, rugged roads, dangers, as the halcyon in the tempest; and with all this, rapidity of decision and a memory of details still more important than the conception of the whole. In 1878 he went personally into eighteen counties and they were gained. In 1881, as Prime Minister, he made a journey through the Province, went into each riding, stirred up the masses by his eloquence, and held them by his talent as an organizer so well that he carried all the counties through which he had passed, that is to say, fifty-three seats out of sixty-five. At the Federal elections of 1887, he had a moment of hesitation in face of the powerlessness in which he found himself, and which made him at a glance foresee a defeat in the province. And one can see what an immense influence he exercised over the Conservative party in Quebec, which was then almost paralyzed. The day he entered the hall of the Conservative Association at Montreal, there was a frantic cry, there were transports which lasted during the whole time of the elections. From that moment not a Conservative had the slightest doubt as to success, and, as a matter of fact, Mr. Chapleau regained all the counties lost six months before in the Provincial elections.

To this long array of brilliant and solid qualities one must be added of no less importance, but of a kind likely to excite surprise in this artist nature; for this particular specialty is wholly prosaic and "of the earth earthy." Mr. Chapleau is a man of business. He will speak about financial operations like an economist; about banking just as a bank manager; about small