

State. To this stipulation, the original author being out of the country, the publishers have readily given assent, at the same time authorising and approving the revision which the book as a whole has received. With these few words of explanation, let us at once address ourselves to our task.

The demise of Canada's foremost statesman, one who has been for over a generation not only the leader of a Party, and that Party most of the time in office, but the chief and revered figure in the political arena of the country, is an event with which biography may dare to deal, and with which history is sure to deal. There is a pathos in the passing into the beyond of even the humblest son of toil, when the shadows have set forever upon his work and he goes forth to the reward that has been appointed for him. In the case of the chief of the State when he passes hence, if the pathos is not greater, public interest is more active and widespread and its sympathy more intense. It is not always when the bell tolls and flags are half-masted, however, that a nation mourns for its dead. For Sir John A. Macdonald, the late Premier of the Dominion, Canada really mourns, and the cause of this is not far to seek. His was a personality so winning and magnetic that even his enemies—and he had enemies—admired him, and in spite of themselves they not infrequently and ungrudgingly gave him their heart. There have been few more remarkable instances in the career of a public man, where, whatever have been the methods by which success has been won, the qualifications for winning it have been more manifest than in his. In late years, when he had become the country's idol, it was easy to account for the idolatry. Yet from the outset of his career it was never difficult to cast the horoscope and premise that success would certainly come to him. Few better than he knew how to attract men—even those politically opposed to him—and having won them to his side he knew how to retain and use them. In this respect, his leadership in Parliament is not less notable than was the enthusiasm he extorted from his following in the country. We say his following, because, though his name

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