

of Canada, because he brought to them a character unsullied, and maintained it to the end ; because he crowned his eminent talents with the aureola of personal purity. It remains with Canadians to learn the lesson of his life ; to put love of country above greed of gain, and ambition to serve our generation above emoluments of office. We may all adopt the noble words of the Toronto University Senate : "We thankfully direct the attention of the young men of Canada to his example of the consecration of rare gifts to the service of his country, and we look back with pride upon a career which accumulated no wealth but the affection of his countrymen." What was written of another can apply to him :

"Oh, think how to his latest day,
When death, just hovering, claimed his prey.
With Palinure's unaltered mood,
Firm at his dangerous post he stood.
Each call for needless rest repelled,
With dying hand the rudder held."

It shall be our privilege to speak of him in the future as one of Canada's historic giants, one of her golden landmarks, whose name shall occupy a prominent place on the list of her distinguished men. It can be truly said that no greater, steadier or more stainless hand has wielded the executive power since the days of respon-

sible government. Seventeen years are a short career—but long enough to show the fine intellectual and moral fibre of the man, who rose from the ranks to the highest position in the gift of the Dominion, and to the crowning point in the councils of the Imperial government. A reverent spirit, sincere, unquestionably benevolent of heart from the beginning of his public life until its close, his errors were insignificant, his achievements amount to monuments. In the full noon tide of power and glory, in the flush of manhood, at the zenith of his honours, Sir John, the far-seeing, sagacious statesman, the sturdy patriot, the rare product of a shallow age, has gently closed the book of an illustrious life. "At rest? No, that cannot be ; his pure soul is at rest after its short but well filled day, but the force of his example, the lessons of his life will live and act on the hearts and wills of future generations. Some day a monument of stone may be raised to his memory, but more enduring, and more precious than tablets of brass or shafts of marble, will be the admiration and reverence of the days that shall be, for the able statesman, the noble Christian and true man, Sir John Thompson."

M. B. TRAINOR, '98.

