

editor and later as a member of Parliament. In the former capacity his vigorous and trenchant articles produced a powerful effect, and contributed not a little to the final triumph of the principles of which he was so effective an advocate. His Parliamentary career is still fresh in the memory of all but the younger generation of Canadians.

The three great questions around which, as central positions, the tide of battle swayed, were Representation by Population, Separation of Church and State, and the Municipal system. It would be impossible, within the necessary limits of this paper, even to state fairly the issues involved in each of these controversies. Two of them, it may be observed, were mainly questions between Upper and Lower Canada, at that time unequally yoked. The people of the Lower Province were considerably less numerous than those of the Upper, and contributed scarcely one-fourth of the revenue; but in virtue of the equal representation they then enjoyed, and still more by reason of the compactness and solidity with which they moved and voted in their political contests with their yoke-fellows and rivals in the Upper Province, they were able to control legislation and secure financial advantages far in excess of what seemed to the Reformers of the West their just due. Hence the demand for Rep. by Pop. as it was called in the political slang of the period, and for such an extension of the municipal system as should compel each member of the union to bear its own share of the local expenses.

Mr. Mackenzie was first returned to Parliament in 1861, as member for Lambton, a constituency which he continued to represent for many years. His readiness in debate, his painstaking mastery of facts and his ability to marshal these in clear, logical and forceful argument, combined with his soundness of judgment, breadth of view, and the high moral standpoint from which he regarded every question, soon won for him a place in the foremost rank of the Liberals of the day. Though his speech did not often soar to the heights of positive eloquence, it was always dignified and weighty, never falling to the level too often reached even in Parliament, of empty declamation or weak commonplace. One marked and rare characteristic of his oratory was its uniform clearness and coherency. He never lost himself, as so many do, in the mazes of imperfect thinking, or meaning-