

House, I may be looked upon as a stickler for principle and a reasonable amount of consistency, nor am I disposed to deny the allegation. I have for instance, great respect for Robert Burns, the poet of Scotland, but I am no admirer of his foibles and infirmities; but for Burns, as a genuine patriot, and as one who was among the first to teach the Scottish peasantry to look up, and in the true spirit of self-reliance, taught them to stand shoulder to shoulder for their social rights, I am a warm admirer, and for these noble traits in his character, I hold his memory in high esteem. And, Sir, let those remarks, in so far as they are applicable, be taken to illustrate my respect for the late Hon. Edward Whelan. But what places me under special obligation to his memory, is the noble and eloquent way in which he plead the cause of the widows and orphans of my brave old companions in arms, in the year 1855; and shall I now fail to support the claims of his widow and orphan boy? No, I trust I never shall.

MR. BRECKEN.—I fully agree with what has been said in favor of the Resolution, but I think it is a pity that in discussing the matter we should, even remotely, go into matters which have no proper connection with the question immediately before us. On this side of the House, we have been in the habit of looking upon the late Mr. Whelan as a man of great natural abilities, who rendered essential service to his party, and I will admit, did some good for this country, and had he applied the genius of his mind to the management of his private affairs, with the same he did to those of the public, I have no doubt but that he would have left his family in better circumstances than he did. When we consider the extent of his acquaintance, the numerous calls which, as a public man, were made upon him, the hospitable, generous and genial disposition of his nature, I think the hon. Col. Secretary and others will bear me out in saying that, under such circumstances, it is seldom that such men do, or can save money. At one time, as a Conservative, I did not approve of all he said, but there is a time when we must forgive and forget, and God forbid that now, when the grave has covered his mortal remains, that we should do other than cherish the most kindly feelings for his memory. When acting as a public man, he allowed politics to absorb his whole attention, and it is not for us to say that if he had done so and so, his circumstances before his death would have been different. Those of us on this side of the House, who support this grant, do so on account of those touches of genius and traits in his character, which we always admired in his conduct as a public man, and I think his views on Confederation were to his credit, and that they form a bright speck in his public career, as it shows the sincerity with which he would advocate a measure, even though in doing so it might render him unpopular among his friends.

HON. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—In my remarks last night, I find I made a mistake when I said the late Mr. Whelan never lost an election,

for he lost the last he ever ran; and I believe the result so preyed upon his spirits, that it was one cause of his death. When in so short a time he found his friends had changed their minds, and that when appealing to them for re-election, they had ceased to trust and confide in him as they formerly did for so many years, his spirits sank under the pressure. Some found fault with him on account of his confederation views; but it should be remembered that no man in politics can be expected to please every person, and in considering a matter of this kind, we are to lay party considerations aside. We know, Sir, in the old country, that when public men who have left their mark upon the country, drop off and leave their families inadequately provided for, and the matter is publicly brought to notice, you will find statesmen who opposed them all their life, to be among the first who will come forward to offer their aid on their behalf, either to erect a testimonial to his memory, or to aid his family, if required. And in such enquiries, the question is not to what party he belonged, but did he act an independent part as a public man? We know that party Government is a vital principle in the British Constitution, and as party men, politicians generally distinguish themselves, yet, as Lord Mansfield said: if a man has raised himself without merit, he will likely die without being remembered; but taking the whole of the circumstances of the life of the late Mr. Whelan into consideration, I think his family is entitled to this much at our hands. Is there any man here who never erred? No! not even yourself, Sir, although you are the first commoner that to err is human, to forgive is divine; and when speaking of the late Mr. Whelan, whom we so often heard within these walls, let us remember the advice of the poet, and

“Be to his faults a little blind;
To his virtues ever kind.”

MR. G. SINCLAIR.—I would be sorry to hold up the late Mr. Whelan as a pattern for public men implicitly to follow; but in speaking on this question, I wish now to look at the bright spots in his public character, and wholly to forget the dark. I confess I did feel grieved at the course he pursued when advocating confederation, and cannot find any sufficient reason for justifying him for the course he then adopted; but I am willing to admit that I believe he was sincere. Indeed, of that I have no doubt, and although I am opposed to testimonials to politicians as such, believing as I do that they must, like other men, take their chance for success in that as in other callings; but as this grant is in aid of efforts now being put forth, which, when taken in connection with the services which he rendered this country during the early part of his life, I could not have the heart to vote against this small grant in aid of those whom he has left behind him.

MR. McCORMACK.—There are not many, Sir, who knew the late Mr. Whelan better than I did, or in whose estimation he deservedly stood higher.