

esty of his intentions or the sincerity of his views. His constituents never wavered in their support of him; and the Legislature, of which he was so long a member, was always proud of him. He was naturally and constitutionally a grave and monotonous speaker; and this gravity and monotony of tone were necessarily increased, because the subjects on which he mostly spoke were statistical or financial, and included a constant reference to dates and figures. Though men were neither subdued by his oratory nor charmed by his manner, they respected his truth and moderation. Occasionally they were swayed by his earnestness, if not carried away by the force and charm of his convictions. He was an upright man, whom in life all men admired; and we may add, without misplaced eulogy, that he was a good man, whom in death all men mourned." So says Mr. Fennings Taylor, and the estimate of his character contained in the preceding sentences will, we believe, stand the test of time.

Mr. Merritt was a frequent contributor to the public press on subjects connected with the trade and industrial resources of Canada. Many of his contributions on these and kindred subjects appeared in the columns of the *Niagara Gleaner*. He made frequent journeys to Europe in furtherance of his various projects, as well as to the principal cities of the United States. On the 29th of September, 1860, he was elected a member of the Legislative Council by acclamation for the district of Allamburg. This position he held until his death. During the winter of 1860-61, he advocated the establishment of a line of large-sized propellers to ply between Chicago and Quebec,

with a view to diverting the traffic to the St. Lawrence from the ordinary route through the State of New York. He also favoured the establishment of a line of vessels for conveying Pennsylvania coal between Dunkirk and the mouth of the Grand River. He also had several conferences with the Government on the subject of deepening the St. Lawrence. All his schemes were of a character thoroughly practical, and for the advancement of his country's good. He had, however, begun to suffer from repeated attacks of ill-health, and his constitution was evidently breaking down. Early in 1862 he suffered a serious bereavement by the death of his wife, who had long been an invalid. His own health continued uncertain throughout the rest of the winter. Upon the approach of spring he started for the sea-side, by advice of his medical attendant. He proceeded down the St. Lawrence to Montreal, where he was attacked by erysipelas in the head. He was given to understand that in all probability he would not recover, and immediately started to return home. He was conveyed on board an upward-bound steamer, but did not live to reach his destination. On the morning of Sunday, the 5th of July, "as the vessel was passing through the canal at Cornwall, almost within sight of the rapids, which had been his thoughts for a life time, the spirit so long and so actively identified with this noble river took its flight, and W. H. Merritt was numbered with the dead." A somewhat voluminous account of his life has been compiled and published by his son, Mr. J. P. Merritt, of St. Catharines, from whose account the foregoing sentence has been extracted.