

without exception. Who does not know that a person in delicate health is an object of commiseration? Who is unaware of the fact that the letter from home always contains an anxious inquiry for the health of the absent one at college. These few remarks apply to all, and especially to those who are not of a robust constitution. One cannot fail to observe a laudable desire on the part of many students to take all the out-door exercise possible. They are to be commended for their wisdom and good sense. We trust that many more will imitate their example. There are a certain number of persons, and we are happy to say that they constitute a small part of the body of students, who dread the keen winter air as if it was their worst enemy, whereas it is their best friend. It is an old truism that we do not realize the worth of anything till we have lost it; so, many regret the loss of health who did not prize the invaluable gift when they possessed it. Health is, assuredly, one of the greatest of God's blessings, for which we should be deeply grateful, and for its preservation we should take every precaution, that we may become more useful members of society, and better able to fight life's battle with confidence and courage.

The facts that the birthday of our popular and universally respected Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, occurred on the 11th ult., and that the Hon. Joseph A. Chapleau, the Premier of the Provincial Government, lately received extraordinary honors at the hands of His Holiness Leo XIII, have induced us to give brief sketches of their political lives. Amongst the greatest statesmen of the world Sir John A. Macdonald holds by no means an unenviable position. Amongst the ablest minds of Canada he stands pre-eminently the first. Endowed with all the qualities which make a mind noble and great, and possessing in a marked degree the characteristics of a leader, he is, we may venture to say with his friends, qualified and competent to be Prime Minister of England. Clear and pithy in his language, forcible in his arguments, and vehement in his earnestness, though not an orator in the strict sense of the word, he carries conviction to the minds of his hearers. A true patriot in his sentiments, and kind in his manner, he enjoys the respect and elicits the admiration of his political opponents, whilst he calls forth the applause and implicit confidence of his friends and followers. As a statesman, he has been compared by an able pen to the late Lord Beaconsfield; but there was, perhaps, a

still more striking resemblance in the external appearance of these two great men. So noticeable, indeed, was this likeness, that, it is related, the Princess Louise, when she was met by Sir John at Halifax on her coming to this country for the first time, expressed her surprise at his marked resemblance to the English ex-Premier. Born in 1815, he has just completed his sixty-seventh year, and has spent the greater part of his life in the service of his country. Since 1844 he has always occupied a seat in Parliament, and has marked his public life by his labors and solicitude for the national prosperity. Sir John is distinguished as a member of the Privy Council of the Queen, and is enrolled as Knight Commander of the Bath since July 1st, 1876, the day on which was realised his fond desire, confederation of the Provinces. It was also he who took the most prominent part in this union scheme, and who presided at the meeting held in Quebec for the purpose of carrying it out; to him, then, may we ascribe the honor of the undertaking and justly give the surname "Father of the Confederation." His diplomatic talents were exercised on several missions, but they elicited admiration, especially in the difficulty that arose from the Alabama Claims; nay, it is generally admitted that his was the greatest of the great minds present on that occasion. Everybody, irrespective of party, must grant that Sir John is a true Canadian patriot, and that his country should feel proud of him and grateful for his having served her so long and so faithfully: and who can doubt but that she does? If Canada were a republic to-day none would have greater claims upon the people to urge his selection as her first president. As it is, however, let us hope that at no far distant day Sir John will be our Governor General, for we must say of him—" *Bene de civitate meruit.*"

The Hon. Joseph A. Chapleau, unlike Sir John, is but commencing his political career, and consequently there is not much to be said on this portion of his life. It is marked, we may say, as yet but by a series of brilliant speeches which have secured for him the reputation of an accomplished orator. On the fall of the Quebec Liberal Government, a few years ago, he was chosen Prime Minister. At the late elections his party was returned with an overwhelming majority, so that a wide field now lies open for him to set his energies and talents into action and serve and benefit his country. It is remarkable to what a degree he can arouse the feelings