

Address at a Banquet given by the Canadian Club of Ottawa
on September 27th, 1911

I WISH to thank you from the very bottom of my heart for the farewell complimentary banquet you have given me this evening. The Chief Justice, to whom I am especially indebted for the more than indulgent speech with which he proposed the toast in my honour, drew a slight contrast between my official and my private capacity. Gentlemen, it is true that I must say farewell to you as Governor-General. I have the honour of resigning my office to His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, and my personal knowledge of His Royal Highness leads me to be convinced that he will be as greatly loved throughout all parts of the Dominion of Canada as he has been wherever his duty has taken him in different parts of the Empire. (Applause). But, gentlemen, if I must say farewell to you as Governor-General, there is no necessity for me to use so sad a word as farewell in my capacity of, to quote Sir Charles Fitzpatrick's expression, your "familiar friend." Unwritten rules of convention are made to be broken so that new precedents may be formed, and I certainly hope that if I am blessed with the continuance of good health and with the necessary opportunity, it may not be very long before I inflict my perhaps too familiar presence upon you once more. (Loud applause).

I wish to thank you in the name of Lady Grey and of my daughters for the most kind way in which you have referred to them. I can assure you, gentlemen, that there are not three more loyal or whole-hearted Canadians in the whole Dominion than Lady Grey and my two daughters. (Applause.) Gentlemen, I am not going to trespass upon the domain of politics, but I may indiscreetly confess to you that when I informed my wife and two daughters this evening that one result of the elections would be to make it impossible for us to leave Canada on October 6th, and that it would be necessary to postpone our departure to October 12th, I had the pleasure of seeing the three happiest women I have seen for many a day. (Applause).

Now, gentlemen, you have all been very kind to me, to Lady Grey and my two daughters. Sir Charles Fitzpatrick, descending from his judicial position on the Supreme Court, referred with almost the partiality of an advocate to the style in which I have run over the Canadian lap of my career. Gentlemen, it is comparatively easy for any runner to get through a lap with fair credit to himself when he has the good will and the hearty support of everybody on the grand stand and all over the course. It is, gentlemen, because of the good will that you have borne me, because of the kindness