

the more as it fell on a sick man. And Sir George was very ill, as it proved, unto death. It may be said that his opponents throughout the election contest brought infamy on themselves and disgrace on the constituency, and this many of the leaders afterwards admitted. The iron seems to have entered into the soul of the mortified statesman though he bore a bold front, and declared that his fight was far from being finished. But his dauntless heart beat too high. He neither knew or felt how near the Angel of Death had been to him for some time. He left for England in search of specialist treatment for his malady, strong in the determination of returning to renew his work in Canada, the country he loved so well, and the last letter he penned indicated that this purpose inspired him to the end. But, on the morning of May 21, 1873, he passed away. The stately column was broken, the silver voice silent.

From all sides expressions of regret sympathy and eulogy were poured on the survivors. Queen Victoria sent a personal condolence to Lady Cartier. In due time came messages from all parts of the Empire. In London the press was especially emphatic in its expressions of appreciation of the services of the deceased statesman. Miss Josephine Cartier, writing to a relation said: "The London newspapers are full of eulogies of my father for here, where even able men often live

and die in obscurity, in this old England so haughty and proud the greatest men treated him as their equal, and rendered justice to his qualities".

In Canada all public honour was paid. Parliament voted the money for a monument as well as a public funeral and now the unveiling of the National Monument in Montreal by the King is a fitting and crowning act.

The scene in the House of Commons when Sir John Macdonald announced the sad news was very affecting. It may not be generally known that he was at heart, despite his cold exterior and self control, very sensitive and emotional. On this occasion he fairly broke down, and this was hardly to be wondered at. Not until the following day was he able to express his feelings in words; this he did in an eloquent eulogy. He summed up his declaration in the following words: "After the political feelings of the present day have faded away the sterling merits of Sir George Cartier's services, the real service he performed in joining with the English-speaking inhabitants of the country in working up the great problem of Confederation, will be seen in its true light. . . . I do not know of any statesman who has held office in Canada for very many years who, whilst holding that position has conferred the same great benefit on his country. The deceased statesman was an honour to his country, to his race and to his province."*

*There has never been any marked difference of opinion in party ranks as to the greatness of Sir George's public service. The writer has heard Sir Wilfrid Laurier say that no one did greater service in his own field than Cartier unless it was La Fontaine. And to come to another generation it is pleasing to read the following words written by Sir Lomer Gouin, Premier of Quebec, who was but a boy ten years old when Sir George Cartier died. "For what French-Canadians are indebted to Sir George Cartier, Canadians of every nationality are equally indebted. He taught them self-reliance and the duty of mutual respect and regard. He exposed the futility of the contention that it was impossible to make of Canada a great nation because Lower Canada was chiefly French and Catholic, Upper Canada English and Protestant, and the Maritime Provinces a mixture of all. The range of his vision extended far beyond the boundaries of Lower Canada and he was fond of asking his fellow-countrymen whether they desired to limit the influence of their race to the narrow boundaries of their own Province. The name of Cartier will live as long as this Dominion endures and of its survival until time shall be no more. There will be no cessation, so long as the spirit of patriotism, zeal, of devotion, of persistent energy and of conciliation, which characterized him remains implanted in the hearts of his countrymen." ("Sir George Etienne Cartier": his life and times by John Boyd).