

ing of Kent in the Legislature of Ontario, are among the most important in the history of the Province and Dominion.

"Among those deserving particular mention are the complete establishment of our free and non-sectarian school system : The final settlement of the Clergy Reserve question, and the placing of all religious bodies upon the same footing in the eye of the law : The long, arduous, and successful struggle against the domination of the whole country by corrupt statesmen, backed by powerful railway and sectional interests, culminating in the Act of Confederation and the control by each Province of all its local affairs and its just share of public money, and in Ontario the Government of the Province through one legislative body : The enactment of laws for the suppression of corrupt practices at parliamentary and municipal elections : The extension of the suffrage, and voting by ballot : Laws for the encouragement of immigration, and the settlement, upon the free grant and homestead system, of our unoccupied wild lands : The provincial aid towards the railways of Ontario : The distribution of the surplus revenue among the municipalities, and the just and equitable settlement of the question of municipal indebtedness : And the establishment of agricultural institutions, such as provincial, county, and township fairs, and an agricultural college.

"Among the blessings we have derived from the political events here enumerated are, a rigid economy in the public expenditure of provincial money, a wide diffusion of an educated, intelligent, liberal and enterprising spirit among all classes of the community,—religious, political, commercial and social.

"There has come, too, the rapid growth of a truly national feeling among the people, and the name of Canada is no longer looked upon abroad as the title of a mere colony, or a term of reproach ; but the name of a new nation in which all feel a just and honorable pride. It is admitted on all hands that whilst united with the Empire we are not solely dependent upon it. Our countrymen everywhere have the hopes, aspirations, and anticipations of a free and unrestrained people, with the characteristics of a new nationality.

"With the great events above enumerated your name has been intimately connected, both in their accomplishment and the realization of their benefits. Your course, since first elected, has been consistent, and you have your reward in the universal satisfaction shown by all parties ; and your constituents in this county feel an honorable pride in having sustained you and the great cause of Reform against the most malevolent opposition.

"In presenting you with this small token, the gift of your constituents, they desire to express to you not only their approval and appreciation of your past political life, but the high esteem in which you are personally held by them as a consistent, constant, and earnest advocate of their political rights, and as a personal friend. They sincerely hope that in your retirement from the political arena both yourself and Mrs. McKellar may be long spared to enjoy the rewards and pleasures of a more private life, but at the same time a life attended by great responsibilities and cares, in which we hope you will always merit the approbation and esteem of your countrymen, and that the blessings of an all-wise Providence may always attend you."

The address was signed by Dr. Jacob Smith, Luther Carpenter, Arch. McDiarmid, Henry Westland, James McKinlay, Dr. James Samson, Isaac Swartout, J. P. McKinlay, and James Grant, the committee of management. The present consisted of a massive gold watch and guard, valued at \$300. The case of the watch was beautifully chased, and bore upon its interior the following inscription :—"Presented to Hon. A. McKellar by a number of his friends, on his retiring from public life. Sept. 8, 1875."

The demonstration was held at Ridgetown under the auspices of the Reform Association. In connection with this event, the following letter, addressed to the secretary by the Minister of Justice, explains itself :

"OTTAWA, Sept. 3.—*Dear Sir*,—I regret that public business will prevent my presence at the demonstration at Ridgetown in honor of Mr. McKellar. The old and intimate personal and political associations between your honored guest and myself would have made it very grateful to my feelings to be with you on such an occasion, and to express, however inadequately, my strong sense of Mr. McKellar's great worth and many virtues, as well as the warm feeling of affection with which he has inspired me. Wishing every success to your gathering, and all good fortune to your guest, I am faithfully yours, EDWARD BLAKE."

We have only space for an extract from a similar letter received from the Hon. A. Mackenzie, Premier :