

working of the new system of government have now to be grappled with by Canadian statesmen, but in his farewell address, Papineau exhorted his countrymen to cling to those principles of justice and equality by which alone popular liberties can be preserved, and to endeavor to build up a nation based upon true democracy.

All through his speeches and writings there breathes that spirit of disinterestedness and devotion to the welfare of his countrymen, which were his prime characteristics. He was loyal to his friends, hospitable, and generous to a fault. In the course of a warm discussion in the assembly in 1834, he made a remarkable prophecy. He said, "My honorable friend boasts of his attachment to monarchy, and thinks that it can be perpetuated on this continent. I will venture to say to him that instead of Europe giving kings and kingdoms to America the day is not far distant when America will give presidents and republics to Europe." He was a warm admirer of the constitution of the United States and the Fathers of the Republic, as is evidenced by the fact that at his death, "The Life of Washington" and "The Life of Jefferson" were among the books on the table near his bedside. Papineau retained all his faculties up to the end and never required glasses to aid his eyesight. His closing hours have been described by Thomas Storow Brown, the "General" of the insurrection army, in a brochure published in 1872. Papineau, trusting too much to his physical strength, went out in his dressing-gown and slippers on a cold day in September, 1871, to give instructions to some laborers who

were at work in his beautiful thousand-acre park, in which he took so much pride. He caught cold. Chills followed. Soon, congestion of the lungs set in, and the aged patriot found it difficult to breathe. For five days and nights, unable to recline in bed, he sat up on chairs, seldom sleeping, but showing his giant spirit in cheerful resignation. His mind was clear as ever, his courage and self-possession complete, while he discussed his approaching end with his family and sorrowing friends. He explained the provisions of his will, drawn by his own hand, and counselled his children with lessons of charity, patience and good will in all relations of life. In taking his medicine, he would say:—"All this I must do to please the doctor, but he knows as well as I do that it is useless." When his chair was drawn to the window overlooking garden and river he remarked sadly: "Never again shall I see my garden and flowers." At last his mind seemed to wander, and he was heard to say, "What a stupid thing for me to be sick here while such tremendous events are occurring, and the affairs of England and France are so entangled." On the evening of the 23rd of September, at half-past eight, he called his physician, and taking his hand said: "Everything that science and the kindest care could do for me has been done, but to no use. Adieu, my dear doctor." Half an hour later his spirit passed painlessly away.

Thus died Papineau, who some Canadians describe as a "rebel," but whom the majority revere as a patriot. History will proclaim him a friend of his race, and a great man.



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