

who himself had been a rebel in 1837—treated the proposal with disdain and scorned to associate himself with a red-hot rebel from Ireland. Mr. Dorion, who afterwards became Judge—but was then known as the “Enfant terrible”—was approached by the same deputation. He at once accepted the proposal. The result was a surprise and a revelation to both parties, Tory and Reform alike—McGee and Dorion were elected by overwhelming majorities. Sir George Etienne Cartier, the greatest and most popular of French Canadian statesmen had to go begging for a seat in the insignificant constituency of Vercheres. He never forgave McGee the humiliation of his defeat in Montreal, and on more than one occasion his resentment betrayed itself on the floor of the house.

I was in the gallery of the old parliament at Toronto, on the evening when Thomas D'Arcy McGee made his first appearance in the house. Of all the members who filed in from the upper house after listening to the speech of the Governor-General, Sir Francis Head—not one looked half so humble or so unpretentious as the Irish member from Montreal west. His naturally dark pallid face made darker still by a tuft of black crispy hair that rested on his left-eyebrow, seemed to droop in sadness as though he were lost in thought and in utter unconsciousness of his solemn surroundings.

A negligé air of carelessness, in his slow walk, in his shirt collar, in his buttoned up dress coat, and hands clasped behind his back, with eyes turned downwards, made him appear so insignificant among the ambitious and self-reliant members of both Provinces, that only a prophet inspired from on high could

foresee that one day he would electrify that House, and assist effectually in shaping the destinies of this great Dominion.

The opposition to the Cartier-Macdonald administration was very strong in those days. It was led by the indefatigable George Brown who had for allies such men as Sandfield Macdonald, Sicotte, La-berge, MacKenzie, Foley, Aikens, Dorion, McDougall, McGee and others of acknowledged ability as Parliamentary debaters. George Brown opened the attack by suggesting amendments to the Governor-General's address. He was replied to by Sir John Macdonald. The debate on the reply to the Governor's address lasted three whole weeks. All this time D'Arcy McGee remained a silent spectator, as though nothing interested him of what was being said or done. When he arose at last to address the House, expectancy of something unusual or above the ordinary was noticed on every countenance; the hush was marked; you could have heard a pin drop. He said that although the subject of reply to the Governor-General's address was well nigh exhausted, he might presume to add his little mite to so absorbing and so interesting a debate. In his address the Governor-General states: “That the Hudson's Bay Company and its territories shall be also presented to you for serious consideration.” He could not fathom the reason for the Governor-General's mis-use and mis-application of the word “its.” Are those territories the appanage of Great Britain, of Canada, or of the Hudson's Bay Company? He considered the word “its” in the address, the most unfortunate pronoun ever employed in the English language. This sally was received with cheers and