stone's long and brilliant career, the Bank of England itself would not feel honoured by the presence and strengthened by the counsel of the orator?'

"As I have just said, it is only in the cold, calm light of impartial history that the part played by men in the great events of their time, can be duly appreciated. But I think I am within the mark in stating now that in Laurier's optimism in his power of assimilation, in his incessant and untiring toil, in his boundless faith in the future of our country, may be seen and reflected the powerful impulsion given to Canada from 1896 to 1911, her wonderful ascent towards economic progress, her marvellous development. How often have I not heard him whenever grappling with some difficult problem repeating the lines penned by Andre Chénier, the great French poet:

" 'L'illusion feconde habite dans mon sein,
J'ai les ailes de l'esperance.' "

" 'In my bosom dwells fruitful illusion
On the wings of hope I soar.' "

"He had to the fullest extent mastered the sense of the Constitution; he had an insight into its jurisprudence and genius, and he loved it.

"He ever advocated adherence to the federal part, in its integrity. To his mind, any change, any departure or new orientation involved a danger. He was an apostle of Autonomy, like Blake and Mowat.

"His political creed borrowed its inspiration from British liberalism. He believed in progress grounded on order; he believed in the advent of democracy through evolution, not through revolution, but never did he allow himself to be carried away by his love of liberty beyond those two limits laid down by conscience and human reason, that is to say, rights and duties.

"From a national standpoint, none of the two great ethnical elements of the country was to predominate or to be domineered. Equal justice, equal rights for all such was his motto. He depreciated isolation, because as he said, for an ethnical group to isolate itself is tantamount to stagnating in inferiority. Let me add that he always advocated harmonious relations between reli-