

upon the province. Not the least in the long catalogue of Mr. Mowat's achievements is his consolidation of the statutes of Ontario, a work more than too much needed.

These splendid abilities of the little premier, of which mention has been made so often already, found triumphant display before the judicial committee of the imperial privy council.

Deplorably bigoted and narrow-minded would be that partizan who should refuse to recognize the greatness of the legal mind which, from Oliver Mowat's point of view, vindicated provincial rights in the matter of the boundary, the rivers and streams bill, and the license question. Nor must it be forgotten that the first minister of Ontario gathered his laurels in the contest on these questions in the face of all the power, *prestige*, and resources of the government of Canada.

Rarely, if ever, has a government owed more to the respect entertained for its chief than the Ontario government owes to the general recognition of its leader's worth. If the reform administration has been kept so long in power at Toronto, this is unquestionably due in the largest measure to the influences of the premier's personal character; and a recent writer, in an able article in one of the Toronto papers, said no more than the strict truth when he wrote as follows, after the latest triumph of the Mowat-Fraser government in the provincial general elections of 1890:

"On the whole," says he, "the success of the government may justly be regarded as a tribute, partly to its generally good record, both for useful legislation and honest administration, and very largely to the personal qualities of its premier. In these days when political scandals are so common, and official scrupulosity so rare, it is no small praise to be able to say of a cabinet that, after many years of successful administration, charges of gross malfeasance in office can hardly be seriously brought against it."

As an orator, Mr. Mowat does not deserve serious mention in the same breath with a Blake, a Laurier, a Chapleau, or a Thompson. Voice, figure, temperament, are all against his success in this sphere. Indeed, he has no pretensions to distinction as a public speaker beyond the exceedingly important fact that what he says, apart from the manner of its delivery, is always of a high order of merit, and, in legal pleadings, generally of the highest. As a debater, so far as his manner goes, he does not compare with Mr. Fraser, Mr. G. W. Ross,