

of the Governor General's name into such a controversy. An occasion soon presented itself, and I have the honor to subjoin an extract from a newspaper report of a speech I made at a dinner given to me by the Halifax Club :—

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“ And here, gentlemen, I should be dis-
 “ posed to conclude this imperfect expression of my thanks, were I not desirous of con-
 “ veying to my friend, the Chief Justice, the great gratification I have derived from the
 “ remarks which have dropped from him in regard to my official position as Governor
 “ General of this great Dominion. Gentlemen, I am well aware that this is, as it were
 “ a domestic festival, and that nothing could be more inopportune than the slightest
 “ allusion to any political topic, but I may be permitted to say this much in reference to
 “ what has fallen from the Chief Justice, that if there is one obligation whose importance
 “ I appreciate more than other, as attaching to the functions of my office, it is the abso-
 “ lute and paramount duty of maintaining not merely an outward attitude of perfect
 “ impartiality towards the various parties into which the political world of Canada as
 “ well as of the Mother Country is divided, but still more of preserving that more subtle
 “ and inward balance of sympathy, judgment, and opinion which should elevate the
 “ representative of your Sovereign above the faintest suspicion of having any other
 “ desire, aim, or ambition than to follow the example of his Royal Mistress in the relation
 “ she has constantly maintained towards her Ministers, her Parliament, and her people
 “ (tremendous applause); to remember every hour of the day that he has but one duty and
 “ but one object—to administer his Government in the interests of the whole Canadian
 “ people, and of the Dominion at large. (Great cheering.) Of course, gentlemen, having
 “ been but one brief year in the country, my character and my sentiments in these
 “ respects can scarcely be known, and there is always a danger during the fervour
 “ of these political controversies, which seem to be conducted by the press of Canada with
 “ peculiar liveliness and animation—(great laughter)—of unauthorized references being
 “ made to the Governor General's supposed sentiments, opinions, and intentions, which
 “ would convey to the uninstructed reader a very erroneous impression of the conduct
 “ and the attitude of the chief of the State. Gentlemen, I do not make this remark by
 “ way of complaint. If there is any person in Canada who has been kindly and con-
 “ siderately dealt with by the press, to whom the press of every political complexion has
 “ shown indulgence and good will, it is myself, and it is most natural and
 “ by no means an uncomplimentary circumstance, that the organs of different shades
 “ of opinion should persuade themselves that the Governor General must necessarily
 “ be of their way of thinking, and see through their spectacles. (Laughter.)
 “ But what I wish to say once for all, and I do not care how widely this remark is
 “ disseminated, is this—that there is no human being who is authorized to make any
 “ statement or suggestion as to what my opinion or sentiments may be in respect of any
 “ political topic, or who has ever been in a position, or is likely to be in a position, to make
 “ anything approaching to a conjecture upon points of this description. It is true,
 “ my object and my desire is to inform my mind upon every subject affecting the interest
 “ of the country, by conversation and by discussion with any one who can afford me
 “ instruction or information; and it would be very unfortunate for me if this freedom
 “ of intercourse with all classes and parties in Canada, from which I derive so much
 “ benefit and pleasure, should be trammelled by the dread lest this casual intercourse
 “ should become the foundation for inference, comment or conjecture in the press. No,
 “ gentlemen, I understand my duty too well ever to allow my judgment or my sympathies
 “ to be surprised into political partizanship. My one thought and desire is the welfare
 “ of Canada as a whole. To maintain her honour, to promote her prosperity, to do my
 “ duty by her and her entire people, is the sole object of my ambition. When I converse
 “ with your public men, it scarcely ever occurs to me to remember to what political party
 “ they belong. I only see in them persons devoting themselves, each according to his
 “ lights, to the service of his country. My only guiding star in the conduct and mainten-