

I have been connected for five years in the House of Commons, and for the last year in the Local Legislature as well, with my friend Mr. Alexander Mackenzie, who has throughout taken a leading part in Opposition in the House of Commons up to this time, and has assumed office with me in the Local Legislature. Mr. Mackenzie has been more intimately thrown together with me for the last five years than perhaps any other public man. Our intercourse has been most cordial, constant and unrestrained, and there is nothing in my public life to which I could refer as having given me pain—and there are many circumstances that have given me pain—which does not sink into insignificance beside the pain I have felt at the unjust observations and gross attacks which have been made upon my friend on recent occasions. I have to say this, that when I was called upon to form a Government I felt it necessary to the interests of the country that my hands should be strengthened by my friend taking office with me, and the greatest difficulty that I found in the formation of that Government was to persuade Mr. Mackenzie to assume the position he now so worthily fills—of Treasurer of Ontario. Not that Mr. Mackenzie was unwilling—he has always been willing—to make any sacrifice in his power for the sake of his country and of that party with which he felt the great interests of the country were identified—but that his own views of his public duty led him to hesitate. He offered his support to the Government outside the Cabinet, but he desired that I would not ask him to take office and it was with the utmost reluctance that he at length consented. I have found him to be the truest and most faithful of friends and colleagues. Efforts have been made by the adversary to weaken Mr. Mackenzie's position in the Legislature at Ottawa, and observations have gone abroad with reference to my relations with him which have given great pain to me. It has been said that I was desirous of withdrawing from the Local Legislature in order to obtain a leading position in the Commons. My only desire was to go there to assist my friend Mr. Mackenzie as his faithful supporter in the future, as I trust I have been in the past. I have no ambition to be any other than a private member of Parliament. I believe in party government. I am a party man, and belong to a party to which I intend to stick as long as it carries out its principles. (Applause.) My personal desire has always been to act in the ranks and along with the ranks of that party, and in no other or more prominent capacity; and in that position I should find myself if returned to the House of Commons on a future occasion, and I have told my friends that whether on the right hand or on the left of the Speaker, my place must be in the ranks. I have to say to you and to my countrymen generally that of all the public men whom I have met—and I have observed, I hope, not unfairly, but closely the men of both sides—I know no man of equal diligence, of equal self-sacrifice, of greater integrity, of a nicer sense of private and public virtue; no man more sternly devoted to the cause which he in his conscience believed to be right, and more willingly and incessantly lending his every effort to the success of that cause than my friend Mr. Mackenzie, whom we are all proud to acknowledge as one of the most prominent public men in the Dominion of Canada, and for whose good and great qualities my own admiration has been intensified by time.” (Applause).

A SECOND TRIBUTE.

Hon. Edward Blake, speaking at Wingham during the campaign of 1887, paid a high tribute to the distinguished services of Mr. Mackenzie. After referring to the storm of abuse that was hurled for many years at Mr. Mackenzie while he was leader of the Liberal party, Mr. Blake said:—

“This—this was the course pursued while Mr. Mackenzie was our leader; but now not unhappily for his party and unhappily

for the country, our friend is rather laid aside by illness, now that the condition of his general health and the feebleness of his voice prevents him from taking as prominent and effective a part in the conduct of public affairs as in former days, now, forsooth, they acknowledge that these charges were false and calumnious. Sir John Macdonald, for example, at London the other day declared that Mr. Mackenzie was and is an honest man, and that he acted to the best of his judgment. So say they all now. Thank God, Mr. Mackenzie's reputation does not depend upon the commendations of Sir John Macdonald! He is gratified, no doubt, at these avowals, and doubtless he also understands as you do, and despises as you do, the motive which prompts his former slanderers to-day. The motive is palpable, and it is twice as mean as it is palpable. I have had once or twice the charges or insinuations against me which generally accompany these encomiums and retractions.” After reading the answer he gave Sir John Macdonald in Parliament in 1881, in reply to the statement that he supplanted Mr. Mackenzie in the office of leader of the Liberal party, saying that he had always shunned the position and only assumed it with the utmost reluctance, Mr. Blake continued:—“I wish, however, that these words of our opponents were accompanied by a little measure of fair deeds. Whatever they say, they do not act in the same way. They first gerrymandered the riding of East York, the chosen constituency of Mr. Mackenzie. They failed to win. Then they morganised that gerrymandered riding under the infamous Franchise Act. And now they are trying to Boultbodye the riding! They are seeking not merely to defeat Mr. Mackenzie, but to defeat him by Alfred Boultbodye! But for this they must have the consent of the electors, and in that gerrymandered and morganised constituency I have every reason to believe there is left an ample reserve of public spirit to secure us a victory. I rejoice to see that our friend has accepted the nomination, and I read the other day, as I am sure you did, with emotion the brief but patriotic speech he made to the convention. The circumstances were moving. They reminded me of the lines the poet puts in the mouth of an old hero and statesman, speaking to his comrades in his declining years:—

Though much is taken much abides; and though
We are not now that strength which in old days
Moved earth and Heaven, that which we are
we are;
One equal temper of heroic hearts
Made weak by time and fate but strong in will
To strive, to seek, to find and not to yield.

THE DUTY OF A PUBLIC MAN.

The speech to which Mr. Blake referred was delivered at Unionville, Oct. 16, 1886. Mr. Mackenzie said:—“Mr. President and gentlemen, it is a matter of the deepest regret that I am quite unable to address a public meeting. I cannot tell, of course, how long that disability may last, but while it does last the excitement of attempting to speak makes it wholly impossible for me to give my thoughts adequate utterance. I feel deeply grateful for the recognition you have given of what little service I have been able to give you since I became your member. My illness has prevented me giving as much attention to my constituents as I could desire, and although I have endeavored to the best of my ability to attend to my Parliamentary duties, I have not been able to use my time as I could wish. However, I can only say that I shall do the best I can in the interest of the riding and especially in the interest of the country. And I warn you that when the interests of the country conflict with the interests of the party I stick to the country. I have no doubt that the united Reform party will so conduct the affairs of the country as to merit my approval. The country has become thoroughly disgusted with the system of government that has prevailed since 1878. I have