limitation on political offences, just as I believe that men who have served a term in the penitentiary in Sir John's constituency have a right to come back to society if they behave themselves. If public men who have committed great political crimes come back to the country which has condemned those crimes, and honestly avow the wrong, admit that they have violated the law of the land and say they are penitent, however long I should feel disposed to keep them on the cutty-stool I should at the same time forgive the offence. But let the people of Canada see to it that they never condone rascality in their rulers, whether Liberal or Tory. You may depend upon it that if you once relax the laws of public morality in high places the contagion will spread like a plague all over the community, you will induce social and financial disorder, and an utter want of principle will be infused not only into our Federal and Provincial Governments, but into the very centre of our municipal and school systems, which will bear its fruit for many years to come, and prove disastrous to our boasted system of self-government."

Prophetic words! Of his own rigid adhesion to principle, to what he believed to be right and best for the country, nothing need be said. He fell in 1878 because he refused, being a free trader, to turn protectionist. At Clinton on July 5, 1878, a few weeks before his defeat, he said :—

"I believe, and I have always believed, that it would be most disastrous to the Liberal party to remain in power one moment longer than they can keep their principles and carry them into effect by practical legislation. And, although I do not pretend to be lacking in a feeling of pride in the position I have received at the hands of the people of Canada, I do say that I would take infinitely more pleasure in sitting on the furthest back bench of the House of Commons as a purely independent member of Parliament than to occupy the first of the Treasury benches if compelled, in order to occupy that seat, to propound a policy at variance with my previous utterances to the great party which I have the honor to lead. Sir, I hope there is still left in this country such a thing as high-mindedness in political life."

In private life, as all who knew him can attest, Mr. Mackenzie was a singularly pure and devout man—devout in the best sense. His account of the death of George Brown in 1880, to be found in the "Life and Speeches," might be applied with a few verbal changes to his own death:—

"He made no complaint and no one could tell what his sufferings were. He lay quite still most of the time, neither inviting nor refusing the nourishment forced upon him, or conscious of the attempts made to minister to his comfort. . . . The medical attendants were obliged to confess that the resources of their art were exhausted. Thenceforward all that could be done was to soothe the patient by the kindness of the grief-stricken but loving members of his family. On Saturday it was quite evident to all that the end was very near. The long struggle was at an end. The once strong frame became weak as an infant's. The massive head and expressive features indicated as much as ever the gigantic intellect and the warm heart, but the wasted form told at once the severity of the battle for life and the nearness of its close. The angel of death had entered the room and taken possession, and in the stillness of the quiet chamber his presence could be felt. Everything recalled Hood's description of a death-bed :—

> Our very hopes belied our fears,
> Our fears our hopes belied ;
> We thought her dying when she slept,
> And sleeping when she died.

Early on Sunday, a beautiful May morning, shortly before the break of day, the sad scene closed. The Angel of the Covenant had come to convey the spirit home."

Like this friend and comrade, Mr. Mackenzie rendered invaluable service to the cause of good government in Canada. He was in office for only five years, and Brown for a still shorter period, but the two were always more than a voice in the wilderness. They were quite content to sit in Opposition so long as the principles for which they contended were triumphing, and whether in or out of power they never ceased to proclaim by precept and example the eternal truth that "righteousness exalteth a nation." If at the present moment their teaching appears to have been in vain, let us who are left strive to reinforce it in the same earnest and unselfish manner.

A GREAT DEBATER.

Anyone who has heard Mr. Laurier talk of the grand old man who lies dead at the house of mourning on St. Alban's street has probably heard the Liberal leader drop the quaint remark that he was "a grand man on his legs." No greater Parliamentary debater has appeared in the Canadian Commons in our time. He had little of the moving, sympathetic eloquence of Mr. Laurier ; he had no such mastery of stately, majestic English as Mr. Blake. But he had a quick and merciless logic, a biting humor, a swift directness of argument that was irresistible in its advance on the enemy's position. He never played with the fringes of a controversy. With magnificent courage he went straight to the core of the subject, faced all his opponents' forces in the open and drove the whole array from the field. He was rarely if ever overthrown in a Parliamentary contest. He had such a mastery of details, such a complete grasp of all the issues with which he had to do, his methods were so clean and his aims so high that he was never over-matched even by the most alert and powerful of his adversaries. His followers during the years that he led the Commons unite in the testimony that whatever differences arose on grounds of policy, whatever the grievances of individual supporters, whatever the conflict of views in the caucus or in the Council chamber, all was forgotten and forgiven when, as Mr. Laurier would say, he was "on his legs" making his defence and establishing his case before Parliament. In strength and readiness Hon. C. F. Fraser's oratory has many of the characteristics of that of the dead leader. Hon. L. H. Davies, whom Mr. Mackenzie ranked as one of the very ablest of the Parliamentary Liberals and for whom the old man had a strong liking and a great admiration, speaks with a method and an energy that recall Mr. Mackenzie in his best days, but Mr. Davies is rather more of an orator and rather less of a debater than the dead statesman. The higher qualities of oratory Mr. Mackenzie did not possess in any pre-eminent degree. Mr. Blake, Mr. Laurier and Mr. G. W. Ross have a truer touch of eloquence. But a more effective Parliamentary debater or a more powerful and convincing campaigner our politics have not developed.

AN UNCHANGING POLICY.

Shortly after the defeat of Mr. Mackenzie's Government at the election of 1878 a political friend who had contested a Conservative constituency in the interest of the Liberal Government visited Ottawa and