

waters of Christianity, flowing down from the fountain source in Galilee and rushing on through the ages, met in their onward impulse the barrier of Roman persecution. But this current was not to be stemmed by any human force, but, as flows the river, when obstructed, in many places beneath the ground, so did Christianity flow on through the Catacombs and carry to every age and every country the soothing draught of its waters.

F. J. N. '22.



### Sir Wilfrid Laurier

"Whose eighty winters freeze with one rebuke,  
All great self-seekers trampling on the right."

**R**ARELY, if ever, has Canada mourned so deeply as over the death of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. And justly so, for by his passing this country loses a gentleman in the finest sense of the word; a statesman unrivalled in his time; and a Christian whose devotedness to his Holy Religion stands unquestioned.

A gentleman! To few can Cardinal Newman's definition, "A gentleman is one who never inflicts pain," be more truly applied than to the late Liberal Chieftain. During the well nigh half century in which Sir Wilfrid served his country as a public man he had occasion to encounter in various ways and under many different circumstances, fellow-citizens who did not always accept the principles he advocated. Never, for one moment, even in the face of bitterest opposition did he deviate from the path of those doctrines which he believed to be true. In private interview, in the controversial combats of the press, in fiery debate on the election platform and on the floor of the House of Commons, he defended his principles and vindicated his chosen positions with all the energy and ability at his command. And yet whether his opponents withdrew, dejected by defeat, or flushed with victory, they could never reproach him with having used ungentlemanly tactics—with having "inflicted" on them "pain."



His wonderful mind, broadened by an extraordinary love and knowledge of the classics, embellished by the "politesse" natural to a descendant of chivalrous France, and elevated by the influence of the Catholic faith, could not bring itself to wound the feelings of a fellow-man with the insidious "slings and arrows" of uncharitableness. In the words of a contemporary politician, Laurier will ever be remembered as "one of the most lovable and best loved politicians in the public life of Canada."

A Statesman! "Among Canadian Statesmen of our day Sir Wilfrid Laurier easily ranked first." "He was a statesman of tremendous attainments." "Canada has lost the greatest of her sons." Such were the eulogies spoken by political friend and foe alike on hearing of the death of the Liberal Leader. And they were not unmerited. From 1874 until the time of his death Laurier gave freely to his country a continuous and devoted service. On all the important questions discussed in Canadian politics during that time his keen judgment and incomparable gift of oratory were great factors in shaping public opinion. "Education," "Tariff," "Navy," Imperial Relations"—on all these he took a firm and reasonable stand and was supported in that stand by a large number of the citizens of Canada. For fifteen years, indeed, that number formed a majority of the Canadian voters and during that time Sir Wilfrid enjoyed the enviable distinction of being Premier of Canada. That he graced that high office with a dignity and brilliancy rarely bestowed on it is a recognized fact. The great work which will above all others redound to the memory of Laurier was his success in harmonizing the interests of opposing factions. The keynote of his whole administration was; "Keep Canada united and all things shall be added into it." The benefits derived from this wise policy may readily be appreciated when we consider that no period in Canadian history has been so prosperous as that during which Sir Wilfrid was First Minister of the Government. The Roman Emperor Augustus boasted that he found Rome a city of brick and left it a city of marble. Well might Sir Wilfrid Laurier have boasted that he found Canada

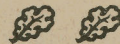


a country of weakness and disunion and left it a strong and united nation.

A Christian! No doubt the brightest feature of this great Canadian's record is his freedom from charges of political or personal dishonor. When we consider that, during his long and varied career, he never once fell before the many temptations which beset a man in the public service, we cannot but admire the splendid character which preserved him unsullied to the end. Doubtless he made some mistakes. He would not have been human had he done otherwise; and with a true Christian humility he himself admitted shortly before his death; "I am conscious that I have made many mistakes." But that he was a "self-seeker," that he ever for an instant placed his own interest before that of his beloved Canada is a fault never imputed to him. Moreover he loved and cherished the Catholic faith in which it was his good fortune to be born, to live, and to die. During his life the exigencies of no situation, however intricate could compel him to revile the Holy Religion which he professed. And at his last moments it was the comforts of this Faith which gave to the venerable old leader the confidence and trust that made his passing so peaceful and serene.

It will now be the duty and pleasure of us who remain behind to pray to the Heavenly Father that He may be speedily place over the brow of the departed statesman the halo of celestial happiness.

A. O'B.—'19.



Literature is the thought of thinking souls.

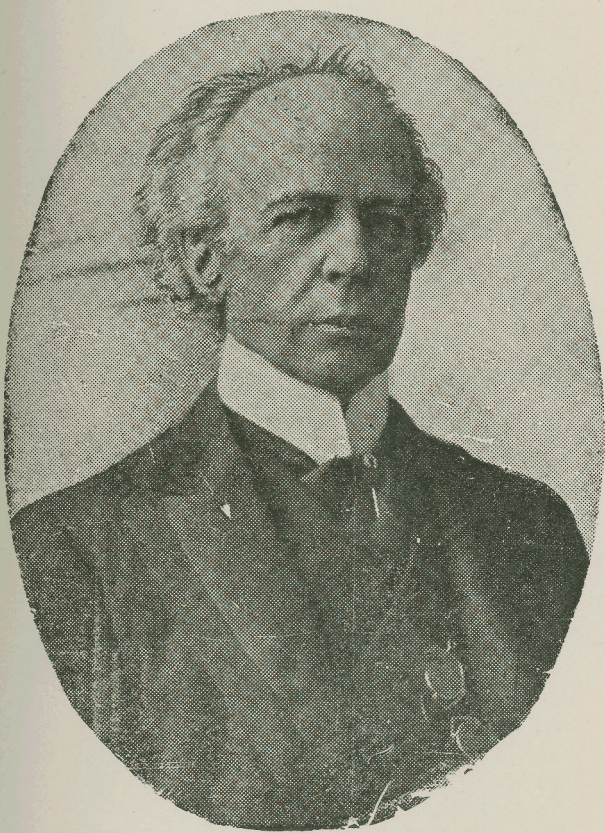
—Carlyle.

Honor lies in honest toil.—Grover Cleveland.

All habits gather by unseen degrees,  
As brooks make rivers, rivers run to seas.

—Ovid.





The Late Sir Wilfrid Laurier