

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT.—It is with feelings of deep regret that I have to announce to this House the sad news reported by telegraph, that the Hon. T. D'Arcy McGee was assassinated at Ottawa, on the morning of the 7th instant. There are few hon. members present who have not seen him, and those who have not, have heard of his patriotic movements in Canada, before the Province was united, and from all they know, they must feel as I do, a deep regret that so worthy a man should be assassinated by his fellow-man. I do not intend to enter into a long display of words upon this occasion, but I admired the man who was so distinguished at the late Conference on Confederation, and who always showed a feeling of sympathy to the Lower Provinces, as well as to his adopted country. I can bear willing testimony to the love of justice and fair play which actuated the noble heart and able mind of this distinguished statesman and orator. I have always held him in high esteem, and nothing has given me a greater shake than to hear that this worthy and noble man has been assassinated for speaking the truth, and uttering the sentiments of his mind. All hon. members present must feel that an assassin could deprive them of life, and might do so if they merely speak the simple truth, and therefore I believe all public men to deprecate this atrocious act. Having had the honor of an acquaintance with Mrs. McGee, I deeply sympathize, and I believe the whole House does with her in her bereavement. It is with a deep feeling of sorrow that I move the following:—

The assassination of the Hon. T. D'Arcy McGee, of the Dominion of Canada, having been reported by telegraph—

Therefore, Resolved, That this House regards with horror and detestation the atrocious and blood-thirsty act; deeply sympathizes with the bereaved widow and orphans, and sincerely regrets that the Dominion Government should have lost such an able and patriotic statesman.

This, I believe, expresses the sentiments of this hon. House.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—As the Leader of the Opposition, I have the painful satisfaction of seconding the resolution which has just been moved by the hon. Leader of the Government on the death of the Hon. T. D'Arcy McGee. I had the pleasure of his acquaintance in 1864, while attending the Quebec Conference, and from what I saw of him then, both in public and private, I came to the conclusion, Sir, that he was one of the greatest men of which British North America could boast. I have never altered the conclusion I then came to, and day by day, and year by year, subsequently, I have been more convinced than ever, that he was a bright and shining light. As a public man in British America, and one who had at heart the welfare and prosperity of all the inhabitants of these Provinces, he stood in the front rank, and I am certain, however hon. members in this House may differ with him as regards the means of carrying out his great object, they must all be convinced that he had no selfish purposes to serve in advocating the Union of British America; because, if he would wish to make himself popular for the moment, he would have taken the opposite course. But he had large conscientiousness and matured views upon this important question, and could speak with greater weight upon that topic than any other man, because in his early days, before his judgment was matured, he was tinged strongly with republican principles, and firmly believed that his beloved country could never prosper unless under the republican system of government. When that unfortunate crisis arrived, in the same country in 1848, he took up his abode in the United States, believing that he could there enjoy greater liberty than under the flag of England; but he

did not remain there many years before he saw that what at first seemed to him very beautiful and fair was far from sound and correct in principle. He crossed the line and found the people of Canada enjoying more real liberty than their neighbors in the United States. After experiencing the various forms of government, he came to the conclusion in his matured judgment, that there was more liberty in regard to money, and the rights of conscience under a constitutional monarch, than could be enjoyed under a republican government. From that time to the day of his sudden and cruel death, he devoted himself to the cause of his country, and after leaving the Legislative Hall of the Dominion on the morning of the 7th instant, having just delivered a very able speech, he was sent into eternity by the shots of an assassin, without a moment's warning. He is not the first statesman who has fallen in that manner; a Prime Minister of England was sent into eternity in the same way within the present century, and again the late President of the United States fell also by the brutal assassin's hand. We cannot find words, for the tongue refuses to perform its functions, when we contemplate the fearful end of the great Canadian statesman. A great and noble man has fallen in the zenith of his political power; and, therefore, I am sure there will not be a dissipated voice to the resolution. In meditating upon the sad death of this true patriot, we are reminded of the language of the poet Longfellow, when he said:—

"The lives of great men all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And departing leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time."

The resolution was here again read at the Clerk's table.

Hon. Mr. McLAUGHLIN.—There is no individual, Sir, in whose breast the tender feeling of humanity exists, but must have formed a favorable opinion of the hon. gentleman whose career has been suddenly cut short in the midst of youth. Although he ran in the path of error, when young, experience calmed him down, and he repented in maturer years. I am not aware that a greater man exists in these Colonies; although I have never seen his person, I have read his writings and his speeches with profound admiration. When we think of his patriotism, his love of constitutional liberty, and his superior attainments; we must, under these circumstances, conclude that the world has lost a great man. We may say truly that "a great man has fallen in Israel." We must deeply regret that any community should shelter in its bosom a person capable of perpetrating such an atrocious crime, and must sincerely hope that he will be brought to justice.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAND.—I am sorry that we should be called upon to pass a resolution of this kind. When we see a man of such a stamp as the Hon. T. D'Arcy McGee, who had one of the noblest and most cultivated minds the world has ever seen, and the largest heart that has ever throbbed in sympathy with his fellow-creatures, cut down in the prime of life, the heart is made sore at the thought that any man could launch such a noble soul into eternity. This great and honorable man occupied a position and earned a name in his adopted country which cannot be forgotten; and though he erred in his early days, there was an ample excuse for him when we take into consideration the views and prevailing ideas which actuated his native country at the time. His experience afterwards taught him the folly of the course which he had pursued, and he took the side of justice, and true liberty; while little minds would have followed on in their foolish course, and would have varied the track of youth into middle age, he saw the right path and walked in it. While smaller minds would have taken credit to themselves if they had acted as he did in 1848, in his native country, he was not the man to do so. He thought that he had thrown away his early days, that he had some re-