CAPTAIN MacA.: “You’re very, very good, and I’ve understood! I’ve a large majority!” (Fuller, 8)

The closest thing to a tragic character in H.M.S. Pinafore is Dick Deadeye, the menacing yet surprisingly honest sailor, from whose mouth “the noblest sentiments sound like the sweet utterances of a deeply-images” (Plant 189). In this role, Fuller casts Alexander MacKenzie, the leader of the Liberal Party. Despite his insistence on “honesty, integrity, and economy,” (Thomson 333), Canada selected Macdonald for Prime Minister in 1878 election with a huge majority. Fuller, who admits in the subtitle to his earlier operetta that he is “remarkably like one of [her] own people, [and that he] resemble[s] him somewhat in other respects besides personal appearance” (Fuller 36). This is the British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli, whose appearance so much resembled Macdonald’s that the latter was called “Teddy” (Topley 95). Britannia suggests the Captain learn from his European counterpart and remain “free from reproach” (Fuller 36). Fuller thus implies that Macdonald is worthy of office so long as he remembers his British roots.

ALEXANDER MACKENZIE: “I dim pretend to anything mair than a honest working man.” (Fuller, 36)

H.M.S. Parliament opened on the 16th of February 1880, at the Academy of Music in Montreal (Gazette 4). This production, staged by the Canadian Macdonald’s friends, was a great success. The audience was enthusiastic about the performances. Following are some press reports:

**1. The Montreal Gazette**


**2. The Ottawa Times**


**3. The London Times**


**4. The Canadian Illustrated News**

> “Parliamentary Poet Laureate.” Canadiana of Canada’s rulers had taught her to be “manifestly incompetent, and [that] many shortcomings [of the production] were due to him” (4). This one failing did not sink the H.M.S. Parliament, which, after a week of packed houses at the Academy Canadian Illustrated News 1834, sailed out on a profitable national tour (Plant and Wagner).