INTRODUCTION

by Edward C. Popehot, State Archivist

George Cartier, 1844-1914, was deeply involved in the politics of his day, and his influence on the shaping of Canadian nationalism is considerable. He is remembered as a progressive and visionary politician, as well as a statesman and a writer. His life and career are the subject of this biographical account called "George Cartier: A Life of Courage and Conviction." The book traces Cartier's journey from his early years in Montreal to his role as a key figure in Canadian politics, especially in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Cartier was born in Montreal on July 1, 1844, the son of a successful businessman. He received a solid education and was sent to Harvard University in the United States. After returning to Canada, he entered politics, initially as a member of the Conservative Party. However, he became disillusioned with the party's conservative politics and switched to the Liberal Party, which was more progressive and open to reform.

Cartier's political career was marked by his dedication to the cause of Canadian nationalism. He was a strong advocate for the unification of British North America and played a key role in the formation of the Dominion of Canada in 1867. He was also a supporter of the confederation of the British North American Colonies and played a crucial role in the negotiations that led to the formation of the Dominion of Canada.

Cartier was a member of the first Canadian Parliament and served as Minister of the Interior in the first Canadian government. He went on to become a member of the Senate, where he continued to serve as a strong advocate for the cause of Canadian nationalism.

Cartier died on June 22, 1914, in Ottawa, after a long and distinguished career in Canadian politics. His life and legacy continue to be celebrated today as a symbol of the progress and achievement that can be achieved through dedication and hard work.

For more information on George Cartier, please visit the website of the National Archives of Canada at www.collectionscanada.gc.ca.