A Believer in Australia.

Sir John Downer did great and valuable work in State politics, and he was twice Premier of South Australia. He was one of the early men of his party to promulgate the belief in a British Commonwealth of Nations. In 1901, when the Commonwealth was about to be formed, Sir John Downer was chosen to represent South Australia on the occasion of the Jubilee of Queen Victoria, and in 1906, when the Federation of the States of Australia was being considered, he was chosen to represent South Australia on the occasion of the Federal Council. Sir John Downer was a member of the Federal Council for twenty years, and was one of the leading figures in the negotiations that led to the formation of the Commonwealth of Australia.

A Family of Lawyers.

Sir John Downer was the son of a lawyer, and his father was a vigorous advocate of the rights of the colonists. The Downer family has been associated with the legal profession for many generations, and Sir John Downer was one of the most distinguished members of the family. He was a fellow of the University of Oxford, and a member of the British Parliament for many years. He was a supporter of the Unionist party, and was a leading figure in the Conservatism movement.

Listen to the opinions of others, even if you always follow your own judgment. Your judgment is sometimes wrong, and you can learn a great deal from the opinions of others. Be bold in your actions, but not rash. Be honest in your dealings, but not too humble. Be courageous in your convictions, but not too impulsive. Be patient in your pursuits, but not too slow. Be persistent in your efforts, but not too obstinate. Be kind to others, but not too soft. Be humble in your success, but not too proud.

Lever, No. 12, South Adelaide. Mrs. J. C. Downer, the widow of Sir John Downer, the last survivor of the pioneers of South Australia, is living in a small cottage in the north of the town. She is a very old woman, and is still active and energetic. She is a member of the South Australian Historical Society, and is a popular figure in South Australian social circles.
articles with the firm of Bartley, Bakowell, and Stow, who were well known when
South Australia was a very young community. He never had any political ambitions,
but he has held a most important position as a financial magnate, and he has in addi-
tion to his legal business done valuable work on the directorate of some of the
chief institutions in the city. Mr. H. E. Downer, who was for many years Com-
missioner of Insolvency, gave up that position to enter Parliament, and he held the office
of Attorney-General in the Cockburn Government. He was associated in business
with Mr. Harold Downer, whose ability as a speaker and profound knowledge of the
law gave promise of a highly successful career, but he died nearly 38 years ago.
The legal firm of which Mr. A. G. Downer and Sir John Downer were partners
dates back to 1865, and it has always stood high in the estimation of the public by reason at once of the
legal knowledge of its principals and of their unblemished personal character. In
later times the firm has included Mr. Frank Downer, son of Mr. Henry Downer,
and Mr. Fred. Downer, son of Sir John Downer. Had Sir John not devoted so much
of his time and thought to the monetarily unprofitable realm of politics he would
have taken an even more prominent position at the bar than he enjoyed for so
many years, and he would undoubtedly have filled a judgeship had he been so
minded. Indeed, he might have gone on the Supreme Court bench as it was, but he
preferred at the time to continue in a Parliamentary career.

A Native of Adelaide.

Born in Adelaide on July 5, 1844, Sir John Downer throughout his life retained the
love of this city and of this State which is the privilege of all true patriots.
He was a loyal Australian, and he had an abounding British patriotism, but the
dearest place in his heart was kept for his own land and for the "Queen City of the
South." He was always ready to champion its interests, either privately or in
his many public capacities, and his skill as a dialectician, combined with his wide
stores of information, made his help invaluable both at the Federal Convention and in the Senate, as well as in the motherland, and at the conferences he attended with inter-State representatives. He had a very cogent way of setting forth his arguments, combined with scintillations of good-humored wit, which were of material assistance to him, not only at the bar and in the Legislature, but on all other occasions. He was a skilled raconteur, and in private life was always a charming companion. He was faithful to friendships to a degree not always attained by public men. There was not a trace of meanness in his disposition, and no one could say that Sir John Downer ever went back on a promise, or proved unfaithful to a trust. In this respect politics did not spoil him, and legal subtleties had no effect upon him.

Another thing of which Sir John Downer was very proud was his old school. He was one of the early scholars of St. Peter’s College, which is three years younger than was Sir John. His studies were afterwards continued with a legal firm, for there was no University in Adelaide in those days, and at the age of 24 years he was admitted to the bar, and shortly afterwards the well-known firm of G. & J. Downer came into existence. The legal profession in those far-away days included many men of great talents, and the South Australian bar had a reputation equal to that of any other similar fraternity in the Empire. Sir John and his brother, however, were able to hold their own against their competitors, and from the beginning they won success by their conscientious and thorough methods of carrying out their duties to clients and the public.

**HIS LOVE FOR POLITICS.**

Sir John had always a yearning towards politics, but he saw the wisdom of securing a good footing at the bar before he aspired to enter the Parliamentary arena. His industry and his devotion to his profession, however, had brought him such success that at the age of 35 he felt himself justified in contesting the district of