

spring of 1867, and was the occasion of Joseph Howe appearing in Bridgetown to formulate his policy of opposition to the union. He first went into the Court House, but the meeting could not nearly all get in, and therefore it was resolved that, as the weather was fine, they should go outside, and Howe spoke from the steps of the court house. Howe was then in the very palm of his ability, and he made a speech on that occasion that would drive any politician wild, and produced an effect upon me in regard to his oratory that is unequalled, and I am now approaching my seventy-second year. One extract from his speech will enable one to form an idea of how brilliant was his oration:

"Aye, but think of the attractions of Ottawa! They may be very great, but I think I may be pardoned if I prefer an old city beside the Thames. London is large enough for me, and you will no doubt prefer London with its magnificent proportions to Ottawa with its magnificent distances. London! the commercial centre of the world, the nursing mother of universal enterprise, the home of the arts, the seat of Empire, the fountain-head of civilization. London where the Lady we honour sits enthroned in the hearts of her subjects, and where the statesmen, the warriors, the orators, historians and poets, who have illustrated the vigour of our race and the compass of our language repose beneath piles so venerable we do not miss the cornice and the pilaster. London! where the archives of a nationality not created in a fortnight are preserved, where personal liberty is secured by the decision of free courts and where legislative chambers the most elevated in tone, control the national councils and guard the interests of the Empire. Surely with such a capital as this we need not seek for another in the backwoods of Canada, and we may be pardoned if we prefer London under the dominion of John Bull, to Ottawa under the dominion of Jack Frost."

The election on Confederation came on in September and resulted in Howe's magnificent victory. I heard later in Bridgetown a debate that took place upon the question of Confederation between Avard Longley, who was the candidate for the Dominion,

and Jared C. Troop, who was a candidate for the Provincial House. Both were speakers who were well known, possessed great ability and exerted all their best powers on that occasion. The result was that Avard Longley was defeated and Ray was returned for the Dominion, and J. C. Troop and D. C. Landers were elected by a large majority to the Local House. J. C. Troop was immediately made a member of the Government which was formed after the election, and was sent as a delegate to London with Howe and Annand. He was afterwards Speaker of the House of Assembly and was about to be appointed a Judge of the County Court when he suddenly died in 1874.

My next political meeting was at Windsor. Howe had accepted office in 1869 with the Dominion Government, and had come to the county of Hants for endorsement. It is needless to say that this step was a momentous one, because it followed so quickly the avalanche of hostility to Confederation, and the people of Nova Scotia, viewing the matter as a whole, had no idea that such a verdict as Nova Scotia had returned would fail of accomplishing its real object. Those that were cold-blooded and vested with clear common sense realized that nothing could be accomplished in opposing the union. Howe and Tupper had discussed the matter fully while in London and the momentous consequences of such a step were brought before Howe, and the necessity of some action on his part which would satisfy the people of Nova Scotia was recognized.

However, Howe had entered into arrangements whereby better terms would be given Nova Scotia. They had been arranged in Portland, Maine, and Howe had gone to Ottawa and been sworn into the Government. This was a patriotic step and worthy of a statesman, but, on the other hand, if Howe had had money enough to exist without it, it was a mistake in