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## HOWE AND HIS TIMES.

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NOVA SCOTIA, while a small province, both in point of geography and population, has always been notable for its clever men. Joseph Howe, Judge Haliburton ("Sam Slick,"), Sir John Inglis, Sir Fenwick Williams, S. G. W. Archibald, James B. Uniacke, James W. Johnston, Lawrence O'Connor Doyle, the Youngs, Sir William Dawson, Principal Grant, Sir Adams Archibald, Sir Charles Tupper, Sir John Thompson, and many others who could be named form quite a galaxy. There was a time, some years before confederation, when such men as Howe, S. G. W. Archibald, Haliburton, Uniacke, Johnston, Young, Doyle and Wilkins all occupied seats in the Provincial Assembly, and there were bright ebullitions of wit and many incidents worth relating.

In the political field, Howe was the central figure. He is not as widely known as Sam Slick, who was more industrious in the literary field; but his versatility was unsurpassed, his humor inexhaustible. He had a touch of nature and his imagination could always throw the glowing beams of humor upon every incident of life. The real character of men can be most accurately judged by certain incidents in their career which reveal the essence of their nature. It is not from great speeches nor elaborate literary pro-

ductions that the true disposition and type of a man is gathered, but from touches of nature which flash out in connection with the lighter affairs of life. Some great men have no humor, but most have, and humor is the truest index of the lineaments of the soul. Though ostracised, for most of his life, from the highest social circles in a city where the social life was, and is, the most attractive in Canada, he was, nevertheless, the soul of a dinner table and the life of a party.

Howe's career, for the first ten or fifteen years of his public life, was entirely unique. He was determined that there should be an end to the system of personal government by the Lieutenant-Governor, and that the people should have absolute control over the affairs of the province. Since the Governor in those days was the social centre, the source of power, and had around him the Bishop, the Chief Justice and other Judges, the Attorney-General, the Colonial Secretary, the Speaker, and all the dignitaries of the place, and was fortified and upheld by a favored clique in each of the county towns, who held all the offices and enjoyed all the favors of the Government, it can readily be seen that in attacking this system Mr. Howe would call down upon his devoted head the whole phalanx whose privi-