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LIFE OF HONORABLE ALEXANDER STEWART, C. B.

BY

HONORABLE CHARLES J. TOWNSHEND, CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF NOVA SCOTIA.

Alexander Stewart, the subject of this memoir, was one of Howe's cotemporaries, and for many years they worked together in the great cause of reforming the constitution of the Province. He began the battle before Howe entered public life. At the time Stewart was first elected to the House of Assembly Howe was its reporter, and was then just at the beginning of his distinguished career as an Editor, and Journalist. Stewart, although highly appreciated in his day, has not in later times received at the hands of his countrymen that credit to which his eminent services justly entitled him. His eloquent and masterly speeches which have come down to us, his activity, and fearlessness in assailing existing abuses, mark him as well worthy to be ranked with that distinguished group of Nova Scotians, Archibald, John Young, Howe, and others who fought the famous battle which eventually swept the Old Council of Twelve out of existence, and gave to the Province the great boon of Responsible Government.

It is only necessary to consult the Journals of the House of Assembly and of the Legislative Council and the newspapers of the day, to understand the leading and useful part taken by him in this great controversy, and in all the principal questions then agitating the public mind. The record of his political life, and the temper and ability he exhibited in all the debates, and discussions, are chronicled from day to day during the progress of the events to which they referred, and bear ample testimony to the value of his services and to his upright, and fearless character. He was early recognized as one of the cham-