

not at my own instance, for the Presidency of the Society, but was defeated by Mr. W. E. Wellington.

Failure to be elected to an office which I had not sought, caused me no concern ; but the spirit in which the contest had been conducted, and the attacks made upon my character, showed me that politics of a very bitter and personal kind had found their way into a society which I had joined on the supposition that it was purely benevolent, or benevolent and social, and that politics were excluded from its pale. I could have no wish to continue such associations, least of all in a charitable institution. I therefore practically retired from the Society, only refraining from the formal resignation of my Life Membership because I had no wish to do anything hostile or give rise to anything unpleasant.

In the year 1892, owing principally to the pressure of the American Tariff, there was a movement in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec in favour of union with the United States. I took no part in setting that movement on foot. I was not in Canada at its inception, or before it had come to a head. But a Continental Union Association having been formed, or rather revived, I joined it, contributed to its fund, and allowed myself to be named its Honorary President. I declined the Presidency, and would gladly have declined the Honorary Presidency, because I had, in fact, shut my study door on all political agitations, and devoted the small remainder of my days to the completion of literary works. But, having advocated Continental Union, and possibly induced others to embrace it, I felt that it would be cowardly to hold back, especially when an attempt had been made to repress freedom of discussion on the subject by the dismissal of Mr. Elgin Myers from his office.