

the Hon. Edward Whalen, suggesting improvements in my style of composition. I had a strong desire to own a newspaper myself, but could never see how that could be brought about. I had also considerable doubts about my ability to run one, but thought that I would like to try.

Finally the way was opened to me. I one day received a letter from Mr. H. A. Harvey, offering me the plant of *The North Star* at a pretty reasonable figure. It was probably the worst paper I could buy with the hope of making the venture successful. *The North Star* was started by Mr. John Ross for the avowed purpose of advocating annexation to the United States, and its patrons and subscribers were largely people whose sympathies ran in that direction. My feelings ran in the direction of Confederation with Canada. I was led to take this view because it appeared to me that in no other way could the rent-paying farmers of the Island be transformed into freeholders. Beside, confederation was attainable; annexation was not. But I knew that the moment I announced my views I would lose many of its subscribers and much of the paper's former patronage. My prediction turned out to be correct. So I went to my mother as I always did when I was undecided and perplexed over any question, and I laid the proposition before her. Her reply was characteristic: "Why, yes, Abercrombie ought to have a paper of his own. If I were you I would buy." On the strength of this advice I went to the city next day and closed the bargain, and so I became the proprietor of a newspaper.

Up to this time I had a very vague idea of newspaper work. I scarcely knew the name of a thing in a printing office. I did not know how to read proof. I knew there was to be a part of the paper devoted to news, a part to selections, a part to advertisements, a part to correspondence and a part to editorials. It was a big venture for me to take, especially as I had all my mill property on hand, and it seventeen miles from the city. But I determined not to give up the mills until I saw how the newspaper venture would turn out. At first the paper did not pay expenses. Many people threw it up when its policy was changed; few people advertised in it because they thought it wouldn't last many months, and nobody came to it with news because they