

these. On leaving his *Alma Mater*, he found it no easy task to decide upon the calling which he should pursue in life. The law offered its advantages, but the literary instinct in young Bourinot was so strong that he made up his mind to gratify his aspirations and cultivate letters. The newspaper press, at first, afforded him the opportunity he desired. He began as a parliamentary reporter and editor. In those days Joseph Howe and Charles Tupper were in their prime, and it was Bourinot's task to set down in short-hand the speeches they made in the old House of Assembly at Halifax. The acquaintance he made with those statesmen at that time ripened into a friendship which remained steadfast to this day, in the case of Tupper, and to the date of Howe's death. The utterances of those men largely influenced the future of the young journalist, and even in later life, he has often been heard to say that, when he wanted inspiration, he had only to turn to the collected addresses of Howe to receive it. In 1860, Bourinot founded and edited the *Halifax Reporter*, a newspaper which enjoyed a fine reputation among its *clientèle* for the brilliancy and independence of its editorials, and the faithfulness of its parliamentary reports. In 1861, the editor of the *Reporter* added to his duties the work of reporting the proceedings of the Nova-Scotia House of Assembly, having accepted the post of chief of the staff. This position he held until Confederation, when he was appointed short-hand writer to the Senate, and removed to Ottawa, where he took up his residence. He wrote letters to the Halifax, and St-John, N.B., papers, and contributed a series of valuable articles, chiefly historical, to *Stewart's Literary Quarterly Magazine* of the last named city. He also wrote some short stories for the *Quarterly*, which attracted wide attention and led to a demand for their publication in book form. This their author, however, has not yet done, though some of his papers, written between 1867 and 1872, have been enlarged and re-printed in another shape, notably his account of the island of Cape Breton, which became in 1892 a monograph of formidable dimensions, and the most exhaustive and able history of a deeply interesting portion of Nova-Scotia, ever written. The paper, read before the English Literature Section of the Royal Society of Canada, is included in the volume of transactions and proceedings of that learned body; but, for the benefit of those who do not get the transactions, a special edition of the treatise has been published, with