

and arduous duties that devolved upon him in the course of a busy life as lawyer and politician.

He was a tory and an aristocrat by education and inclination, but the annals of the legislature show he was not an obstinate opponent of reform, when he came to believe conscientiously that the proposed change was really a reform. A great lawyer in every sense of the term, an impassioned orator at times, a master of invective, a man of strong and earnest convictions, he exercised necessarily a large power in political councils, and did much to mould the legislation of the province. It is an interesting fact that, while a tory by education



SPEAKER MARSHALL (1867).

and aspiration, he was more than once an advocate of most liberal and even radical measures, one of which, simultaneous polling at elections—or the holding of elections on one and the same day—he himself carried ten years even before it was thought of in the Canadian provinces.

*The Hon. Joseph Howe.*

As I recall the portrait of the most famous Nova Scotian of his time—famous for the brilliancy of his eloquence and his wide popu-

larity in the province where he struggled successfully for the people's rights—I can still see in my mind's eye the face and figure of Joseph Howe, when he stood by the clerk's table in the session of 1860, answering Dr. Tupper, who was the most formidable opponent the liberal leader ever met in the political field. His massive head was set on a sturdy framework, his eyes were always full of passionate expression, his voice had a fullness and a ring of which he had a most complete mastery, his invective was as powerful as his humour was catching and his pathos melting. Indeed he had a sense of humour and a capacity for wit which has never been equalled by any public man I have ever met in public life. Among his compeers, at a dinner or supper table, this humour was a "little robust," to use the expressive phrase given me by a former governor-general of Canada. He was like Sir John Macdonald in this particular, though far superior to him in originality of wit and power to tell a good story. Howe's sense of humour, his personal magnetism, and his contempt for all humbugs, his sympathy for human weaknesses and frailties, added to his earnest advocacy of popular liberties, deservedly won for him a place in the people's hearts never held before or after him by a public man in Nova Scotia.

He was the most magnetic speaker who ever stood on a public platform in the Dominion: he could sway thousands by his flights of eloquence, and lead them to follow him as if he were the shepherd of a flock of political sheep. In the homes of the people he was always welcome, the children loved to hear his stories, and the girls never objected to be kissed by him. He was vain of his popularity, but his vanity was that peculiar to all great men and never obtrusively