

of Hon. Mr. Townshend's resolution "for concerted action on the part of the Maritime Provinces for the abolition of the Legislative Councils in those provinces," April, 1881 :

Mr. Macgillivray said he was in a position to discuss this question, as the mover of the resolution had stated that it should be discussed, calmly and dispassionately. He was not trammelled by party spleen or partiality. He had always held the view that the business of this province, particularly in its local affairs, as transacted within the sphere of the local government, should be carried on without any great display of political feeling being manifested by the members returned to this House, and that the members of the upper branch of this legislature as well should drive away from their minds altogether any feelings of that kind. He feared very much, however, from the action recently taken by the Council, and he felt more regret than anything else at the fact, that feelings of that kind had actuated its members in treating as they had done, the measures passed by this House this session. It was very much to be regretted that the business of the House, brought in and matured by those who were responsible to the people, should be thwarted by the members of the upper branch, who were, to a large extent, irresponsible parties. The idea of a body of that kind was to check the impetuosity of this branch in measures detrimental to the interests of the country, but it was almost impossible, within the legislative jurisdiction of this House, that any measure of that kind should be passed. He did not think anyone could conceive of any measure that could be brought here and passed, detrimental to the interests of the province, within the limits of the jurisdiction of this legislature. He contended, therefore, that the Legislative Council was a useless portion of the legislature of this province. It was so considered in Ontario, a much larger province, with larger and more varied interests and with more extensive duties and heavier responsibilities to be undertaken, and larger sums of public money to be controlled by its legislature. The gentlemen who formerly composed the Legislative Council in that province saw that they were unnecessary for the carrying on of the public business, and therefore they consented, and even expressed a desire, that they should be abolished. They retired gracefully, and that was all this House, in 1879, asked our Legislative Council to do. They had simply been asked by resolution of this House to pass a measure to abolish themselves. He might refer for a moment to the action of that body during the present session. He did not think there could be found in constitutional history any proceedings in any British legislature, from the Home Parliament down to the smallest colonial body, where the majority of the upper branch had taken upon themselves the responsibility of defeating measures involving the expenditure of public moneys, except the instance here in this session. Such bodies certainly might be opposed to the political views of the ruling party in the lower branch, and might discuss their measures very freely and let the discussion go before the country, but they always passed the measures and threw the responsibility on the representatives of the people. Before he came to this House it was his opinion that the upper branch of this legislature was unnecessary, and he believed that opinion was shared by the large majority of the people of this province. In this age the popular will must in the long run be submitted to, and he believed that body could not long exist when the popular will was so nearly unanimous in favor of its abolition.

Mr. Macgillivray was president of the Highland Society of Antigonish, in 1878, and had the honor of presenting an address, jointly with the Caledonian Society of Prince Edward Island, to His Excellency, the Marquis of Lorne, Governor-General of Canada, on his arrival at Halifax. The address was prepared with great care, and its delivery was highly creditable to our subject. We may here add that he speaks the Gaelic with great fluency.

Mr. Macgillivray was married on the 5th of February, 1878, to Maggie, daughter of the late Alexander McIntosh, Esq., of Antigonish, and she died on the 8th of September, 1879, leaving an infant son.

Our subject is a member of the Roman Catholic Church ; a man of sound principles and generous impulses, cordial in his disposition, full of good-cheer, sunny-souled, and always ready to bear his part in a chorus of laughter.

At the time the question of the distribution of the "Fishery Award" was before the House of Assembly, Mr. Macgillivray made a carefully prepared speech, ending as follows :—

It was well known that the fishing industry was the best industry of the Province of Nova Scotia, and one of the largest that we had, and that if Nova Scotia had not been a part of the Dominion, the award which the Fishery Commissioners had been bound to make would have been very much smaller indeed than it was. He would ask, therefore, if it was right that this money should go for the purpose of building railways to British Columbia and the construction of public works in the interior provinces of the Dominion. He believed that this railway was a very costly affair, and that it had been very badly mismanaged. * * * He was very credibly informed that the location of the road, before a single sod of it had been turned, had cost \$10,000 a mile, and that even the staff of engineers was composed largely, not of the natives of the Dominion, but of men from England, sons of gentlemen for whom positions were made in connection with the construction of this line, and that our own people were excluded from positions on the staff of engineers. He (Mr. Macgillivray) thought this was a very great grievance, and he only referred to it in this connection as going to intensify the grievances of this province, and to strengthen the argument which he was pressing in favor of the