

THE LATE HONOURABLE WILLIAM
HENRY POPE, OF P. E. ISLAND.

The Bench in the Province of Prince Edward Island has recently suffered a great loss by the untimely death of the Hon. Judge Pope. He was one of the first appointments when County Courts were established on the Island, and he had so discharged duties of his position as to make his death widely felt as a public bereavement. Indeed he bore among the people of Prince County the character of a peacemaker rather than that of a Judge. He preferred conciliatory measures to legal proceedings, and loved to settle disputes as a disinterested friend better than as a Judge by formal decisions from the Bench. He was born in the County where he presided as Judge, and to his intimate acquaintance with the people may perhaps in some measure be attributed the influence he exerted in diminishing litigation and soothing the differences which sprang up among neighbours.

Before his elevation to the Bench, Mr. Pope acted an important part in local politics, and bore some of the highest offices in the Government. Indeed from the time he arrived at manhood until his death, in his fifty-fifth year, he was with little intermission prominently before the public. He received his education in England, and having finished his course of law in the office of the Hon. Edward Palmer, now Chief Justice, he was called to the Bar in 1847. The drudging routine of his profession had however for him fewer allurements than the excitement of political life, and while assiduously devoted to the study of his profession, he preferred the Legislative Assembly to the Court Room. The time in which his lot was cast, perhaps justified his preference. Important questions connected with the prosperity and welfare of the colony were already becoming matters of agitation and debate. The tenure of land and the question of Confederation had begun to occupy men's minds, and furnish matter for discussion. In 1859 Mr. Pope was made Colonial Secretary, and in 1863 he took a seat in the House of Assembly as the representative of Belfast, and was at once invited to enter the Cabinet. In furtherance of the settlement of the question of land tenures, Mr. Pope, in conjunction with the Hon. Edward Palmer, visited London, and laid their case before the British Government. The mission was productive of good results. He was also one of the Colonial Delegates, who assembled in Charlottetown, and afterwards in Quebec, to discuss the subject of

OUR CANADIAN PORTRAIT GALLERY.



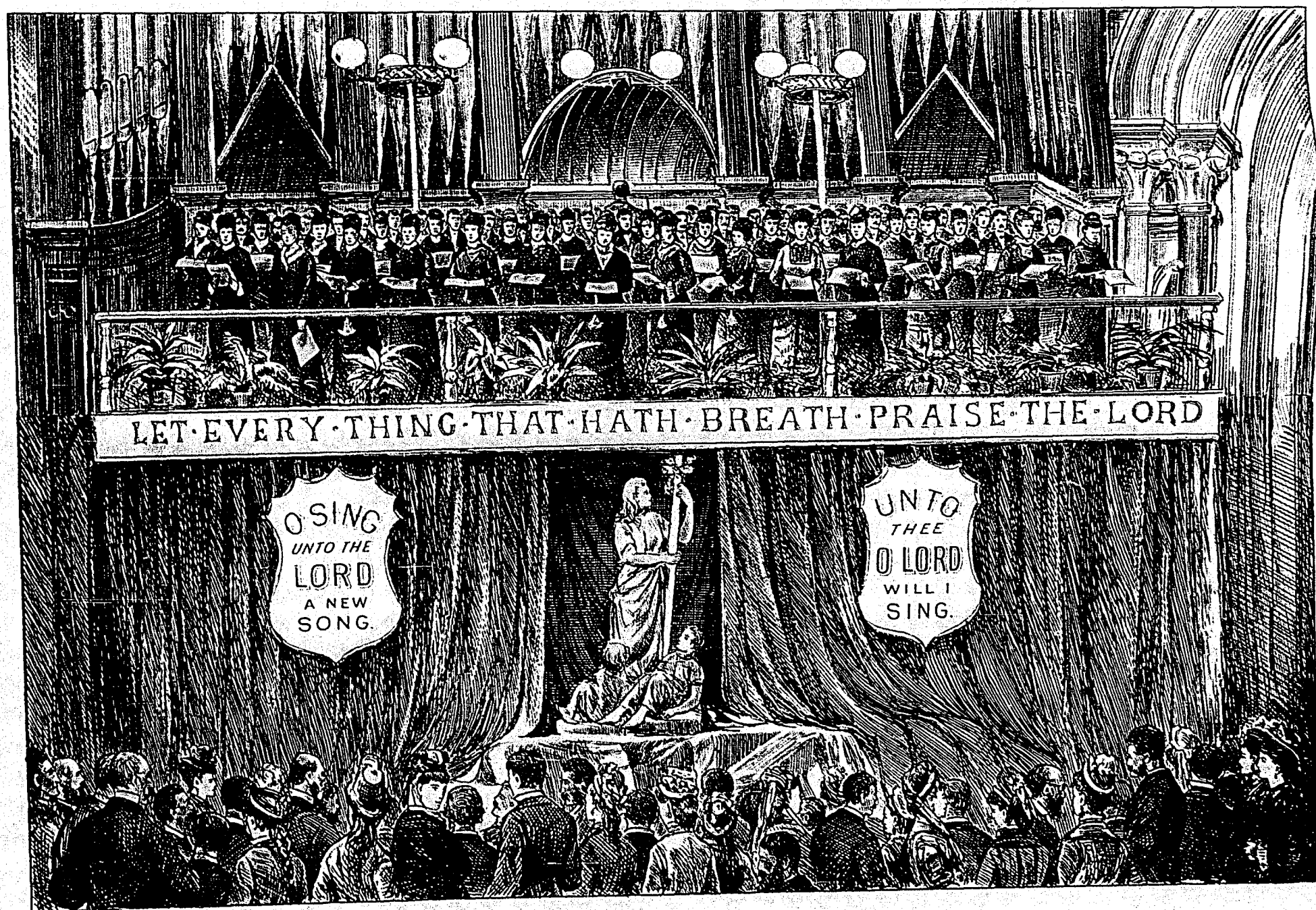
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Confederation. Although the action taken on this question was followed by no immediate effect, still the matter had been fairly broached, and Mr. Pope by his writings in the *Islander* newspaper lost no opportunity of reconciling the public mind to the Union, which the course of years ultimately brought about. He was also one of a Commission appointed by the Canadian Government to visit the West India Islands and the Brazils, with a view of negotiating a treaty of reciprocal free trade. The Emperor of Brazil received the Commissioners with the greatest courtesy and promised to advance their views all that lay in his power. This mission has not been fruitless; benefit has been derived, and still greater advantages with proper exertions may be expected in the future.

We said above that Mr. Pope, although taking an active part in politics, and mingling conspicuously in the strife and turmoil consequent on political life, still found time to keep himself abreast of his fellows in the study of his profession. A proof of the confidence reposed in his legal ability by those most competent to judge, was furnished in the year 1861, when in conjunction with the Hon. Edward Palmer and the Hon. John Longworth, he was entrusted with the revision of the laws of the Province preparatory to the publication of a new edition of the Statute Book. Again in 1878 a similar but more intricate task was confided to him and Judge Alley—namely, to condense, consolidate and revise for publication all the laws in force since Confederation. To this work he devoted much time and study, and the vast pile of manuscript left by him ready for the press bears ample testimony alike to his diligence and his research.

In social life Mr. Pope was the soul of hospitality and the very pattern of good fellowship. All his life he had been a student, and in the course of his reading he had picked up much valuable and much quaint information, which he wove with singular skill into his conversation. His disposition was naturally gay and cheerful, and his happy flow of spirits might lead you to believe that he never knew a trouble. A strong attachment existed between him and his only brother, the Hon. J. C. Pope, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, who with his father, the Hon. Joseph Pope, has felt his loss most acutely. His mother was a daughter of the late Captain Colledge. She died many years ago.

Mr. Pope married on the 2nd of January, 1851, Miss DesBrisay, of Charlottetown, who with eight children survives him. His death



MONTREAL.—SACRED CONCERT AT THE WESLEY (CONGREGATIONAL) CHURCH.