

ning, and he built wisely and well as a practical statesman, a constitutional lawyer, and an experienced parliamentarian. As Lieut.-Governor of the North-West he negotiated important treaties with the Indian tribes. Near the close of 1872 he resigned the Governorship, having held the office much longer than he had intended and promised. The following letter from Hon. Joseph Howe (then Secretary of State for the Provinces) was addressed to Mr. Archibald:—

"I have the honour by command of the Governor-General, to inform you that His Excellency, with the advice of his Council, has, though with much reluctance, accepted your resignation of your offices of Lieut.-Governor of Manitoba and of the North-West Territories. His Excellency directs me to take this opportunity of conveying to you the expression of his high appreciation of the patriotic motives which prompted you, at the request of His Excellency's predecessor, to undertake at a critical juncture the duties of the high offices which you now resign; and his sense of the great value of the services you have rendered while holding those offices, not only to the Province of Manitoba and the North-West Territories, but also to the Dominion and to the Empire. When, after the unhappy occurrences in the North-West Territories in the winter of 1869-70, it became necessary to appoint a Lieut.-Governor of Manitoba, the Government of the Dominion was fortunate in securing the services of one so eminently qualified as yourself for a task so difficult, delicate and important. The present position and prospects of the Province of Manitoba contrasted with its position and prospects when, two years ago, you entered that Province, is, in His Excellency's opinion, sufficient evidence of the large measure of success which has attended your administration of its government. If within a few months of your arrival at Fort Garry peace and order were successfully restored in Manitoba, and if the national animosities and irritations, to which the events of the preceding winter had given rise, had largely subsided, the result was mainly due, His Excellency believes, to your impartiality, firmness and discretion; 'to the conviction (to use the language of the address of the first Legislative Assembly of Manitoba) which everywhere obtained, that your prevailing feeling was an anxiety fairly and justly to discharge your duty as Governor to the whole population.' And again, if considering the exceptional circumstances in which the nascent Province was placed, its government has hitherto been carried on satisfactorily, if its Legislature has shown wisdom in adapting its measures to the existing condition of the country, and, if the Government and the Legislature together have done much towards laying the foundation of the institution of a new Province, His Excellency feels these happy results are mainly due to the practical statesmanship, large Parliamentary experience, ripe constitutional knowledge and conscientious industry which you brought to the aid of the Government and the Legislature in their first efforts to discharge the grave and novel duties devolved upon them."

This letter, which I have given in full, is perfectly sincere. No man knew Mr. Archibald better than Joseph Howe.

In 1873 Mr. Archibald became a member of the C. P. R. Company, of which Sir Hugh Allan was President. He spent the summer in England in negotiations with a view to the securing of funds for the Company for constructing the great railway. The Company failing to accomplish their object, Mr. Archibald returned to Canada. On his arrival at Montreal he was informed that he had been appointed Judge in Equity to succeed Judge J. W. Johnston, then recently deceased. Before assuming the duties of the office, the Lieut.-Governorship of Nova Scotia became vacant by the lamented death of Hon. Joseph Howe. The position was offered to Mr. Archibald, who accepted it and held it for two terms of five years each. It is needless to say that he discharged all the duties of the position in a manner that won the affection and esteem of the whole population. Publicly and privately he did much to remove the pernicious prejudices that had been fostered against Confederation. Whatever in his position could be done was done to promote agriculture, horticulture and education.

In 1873, after the close of his Governorship of the North-West, Mr. Archibald was made a Companion, and, in 1885, a Knight of Order of St. Michael and St. George. In 1878 the Historical Society of Nova Scotia was formed. A very brilliant, thoughtful and most interesting address was delivered by Mr. Archibald, then Lieut.-Governor, before the *élite* of the city. The address was delivered in the General Assembly room, where his eloquent speeches had so often been heard long years ago by crowded audiences. Sir Adams Archibald has for years been President of the Historical Society. His papers on the Acadian expulsion and other subjects are of permanent value, and are published in the transactions of the Society.

In 1884, on the retirement of Sir William Young, Sir Adams was appointed a Governor of Dalhousie University and President of the Board of Governors, a position in which he has rendered valuable service to higher education. He has taken a deep interest in the Faculty of Law connected with the University, and his inaugural address was one of his finest productions.

When Mr. MacLellan, in 1887, was appointed Lieut.-Governor of Nova Scotia, Sir Adams once more became a candidate for the suffrages of his old friends in Colchester county. The people welcomed him with enthusiasm, and although he made no personal canvass of the

electors he was returned with a majority of 600 votes. In March, 1891, he declined to be nominated. He intimated his determination to retire from public life. He has devoted many of his best years to the service of his country; and he has retired to the rest and quiet of private life with the consciousness of having on all occasions done his duty to the best of his ability. His long public career has been without a stain. No one has ever charged him with pursuing selfish or ignoble aims. He is an accomplished scholar, a life long student, and one of the best read men in Canada. In his prime he was an effective and powerful speaker; and few could excel him in the art of winning public confidence. Sir Adams Archibald is among the last of a noble school of public men—incorruptible, honourable, pure in private life, patriotic in public life,—men worthy to represent a Christian people and to mould the destinies of a great and growing country.

Sir Adams was not a wealthier man when he retired from public life than when he commenced his career as a member of the Nova Scotia Legislature. I mean no reflection on men who have done differently; but I do not think the less of Joseph Howe or of Adams Archibald for not having made money out of Government offices and Governorships. They had nobler aims in view.

Sir Adams has had the advantage of a fine, manly, commanding presence. He is tall, stout, strongly built, and under the weight of four score years stands erect and stately. His mind is still clear, his imagination vivid, and his intellectual vision keen.

ROBERT MURRAY.

THE BEHRING SEA QUESTION.

ALL fair-minded and generous Canadians who have been following the course of the negotiations in regard to removal of the *modus vivendi* in Behring's Sea, with some anxiety lest, in order to gratify the infidelity of a few British Columbia vessel-owners, and in response to one-sided representations, the British Government and Canada might find themselves involved in disastrous hostilities in maintaining an unjustifiable position—must have read with a sense of relief the substance of the article believed to be inspired by Mr. Gladstone in his organ, the *Speaker*. The American insistence on their demand that the seal fisheries, involving so many important interests, should, pending the ratification of a treaty which is finally to settle the whole matter, be preserved from the reckless and too often barbarous depredations of a few individuals (Canadians or otherwise, as the case may be) whose only care is to secure a maximum of booty for themselves, seems on the face of it so reasonable that it is difficult to see on what ground Lord Salisbury could justify a refusal. "Why, indeed," as the article in the *Speaker* is reported as saying, "should the Government be asked to promote the success of Canadian adventurers who deliberately undertake a dangerous speculative enterprise of doubtful legality and of doubtful utility to mankind. At the outside the capital and outfit of these adventurers amount to £130,000. Their success might make the fur seal as extinct as the dodo, and if the existence of the seal is at stake, how can the damages be measured? We are not going to war with the United States, not even in the interest of federation of the Empire; and, pending arbitration, it is unjust to refuse to continue the arrangement, which was a part of the condition under which the arbitration was agreed to."

These words precisely express what some Canadians, at least, have been feeling during the last two or three weeks, and it is most cheering to hear them now spoken with authority by those who may be supposed to have a sufficient grasp of the situation. It is earnestly to be hoped that this fair and generous spirit will be amply sustained by all the earnest moral feeling of Canada, irrespective of party lines, as against the voice of reckless and selfish greed and partisan bluster! One or two of the English papers have used the expression "American bluster," but no unprejudiced person can help admitting that some of their own arrogant and contemptuous comments are far more suggestive of the epithet than the calm and dignified representations of the American authorities. And neither "bluster" nor anything else would make any embroilment other than most disastrous to Canadian interests. This we might bear in a just cause, but in one so palpably *unjust* it would be as wicked as it would be suicidal. But the latest English news, at this writing, warrants the hope that a fair and amicable settlement will soon be reached.

It would be well, however, that Canadians should take some trouble to ascertain the real merits of the case, for injustice oftener proceeds from ignorance than from evil intention. In *Harper's Magazine* for April, 1891, there appeared an able and temperately-written article over a name that ought to be above suspicion—that of the Hon. J. E. Phelps, which should be read by every Canadian who desires to take an unprejudiced view of the situation. The following paragraph from this article, which is, indeed, somewhat painful and humiliating reading to those who would fain see the name of *Canadian* an unblemished one, should of itself be sufficient for all readers pretending either to humanity or reasonableness:—

"The seal is not a denizen of the sea alone, still less a 'wanderer of the sea,' but requires both land and water for its existence, and especially for its propagation. It has a

fixed habitation on the Alaskan shore, from which it never long departs and to which it constantly returns. It belongs, therefore, to the territory on which it makes its home, and where it breeds, and gives rise there to a revenue as much entitled to the protection of the Government as the large commerce of the port of New York. It is the habit of this colony of seals to come through the sea, during breeding time, to the Pribyloff Islands, which form a part of Alaska, where their young are produced and reared. More sagacious and peculiar in their habits than most animals, and almost human in some of their instincts, this process of seclusion has become essential to successful propagation. It must be tolerated and protected, or propagation will cease. In making the passage, the seals necessarily cross a portion of Behring Sea, which is more than three miles outside of either shore, and is therefore beyond the line usually regarded as the limit of national jurisdiction on the borders of the ocean. It has been the custom, for several years past, for certain Canadian vessels fitted out for the purpose to intercept the seals on this passage outside the three mile line, and to shoot them in the water. Many of the animals thus destroyed sink and are lost. Those that are saved are considerably diminished in value by their condition. Still there is a certain profit in the business, inhuman and wasteful as it is. But the necessary result of it, if continued, will be the extermination of the seals in Alaska within a very short time, the destruction of the interests and industries dependent upon them, and, in a large measure, the withdrawal of the fur seal from commerce and from use. The certainty of this result is proved by what has recently taken place. The Secretary of State in his last (published) communication to the British Government on this subject makes the following statement: 'From 1870 to 1890 the seal fisheries, carefully guarded and preserved, yielded 100,000 skins each year. The Canadian intrusions began in 1886, and so great has been the damage resulting from their destruction of seal life in the open sea surrounding the Pribyloff Islands that in 1890 the Government of the United States limited the Alaska Company to 60,000 skins, but the company was able to secure only 21,000 seals.'

It is to be hoped that in the name alike of humanity and justice that Canadian public opinion will sustain the British voice raised in behalf of fair play, and repudiate any selfish attempts to induce the British Government to refuse the necessary co-operation for the protection of seals in such circumstances from the destructive and wasteful avarice of a few irresponsible sealers. Let us at least absolve Canada at large from complicity with an infraction of the laws which should regulate civilized nations both to the animal kingdom and to each other. Judging by recent reports, the destruction of seal life in the eastern ocean is as reckless and unlimited as in the western. We cannot read of the destruction in one day of 20,000 seals without feeling that no fertility can long resist such a tremendous drain, and that it is the old story over again of the killing of the goose that laid the golden egg!

But, in the Behring Sea matter, the gravity of the question is enhanced by the consideration that nations are not, any more than individuals, excused from observing the golden rule. Of course there are Canadians, as well as others, to whom such considerations have no weight in comparison with self-interest. But we may well hope that these do not preponderate! This is not a time for the sham loyalty cry of "Our country, right or wrong!" That should be left for boodlers *et id omne genus*. His loyalty must indeed be of gelatinous texture who is either afraid or ashamed, when his country has put itself in the wrong, frankly to admit the same and retrieve the wrong and rectify the position with all convenient speed.

FIDELIS.

MONTCALM AND LEVIS.

FOR those desirous of following the main incidents of the memorable Seven Years' War—1756-63—in Canada, as well as studying the social record of the period in its minute details, two standard works are now available: Parkman's "Montcalm and Wolfe" for the English reader, and Casgrain's "Montcalm and Levis" for French-Canadians.

The story told by both writers may be the same, but the colouring, the lights and shades of the picture often materially differ. Nor is the summing up of the enquiry and the verdict likely to be taken the same, for here we are face to face with two different—shall we say antagonistic?—schools of thought. This very interesting phase of the subject, want of space forbids us entering into. We shall, therefore, confine ourselves to a few glimpses of the two French commanders in their every-day life.

Able generals, Montcalm and Levis unquestionably proved themselves; both equally free of the taint of malversation of office and speculation, as such, very unlike the members of *Le Grande Société*, of which Frs. Bigot, the Intendant, was the high priest. But was their influence and that of their military followers morally beneficial to the colony? Old memoirs, corroborated by the recently published correspondence, leave strong grounds to doubt.

The sole object of French officers in accepting commands in what they styled the Canadian wilderness, was military promotion. At each page, we find them asking, as Abbé Casgrain puts it, "des grâces"—promotion, resting their claim finally on court favour—the king's concubine in