

elegance and splendid diction, perhaps none that he ever delivered exceed passages of this in elevation of thought and beauty of sentiment. I must quote a few passages to inspire young Canadians to high thoughts and noble aspirations. In his peroration to the jury, he says :—

“ Will you, my countrymen, the descendants of these men, warmed by their blood, inheriting their language, and having the principles for which they struggled confided to your care, allow them to be violated in your hands ? Will you permit the sacred fire of liberty, brought by your fathers from the venerable temples of Britain, to be quenched and trodden out on the simple altars they have raised ? Your verdict will be the most important in its consequences ever delivered before this tribunal : and I conjure you to judge me by the principles of English law, and to leave an unshackled press as a legacy to your children. You remember the press in your hours of conviviality and mirth : oh ! do not desert it in this its day of trial.

“ If for a moment I could fancy that your verdict would stain me with crime, cramp my resources by fines, and cast my body into prison, even then I would endeavor to seek elsewhere for consolation and support. Even then I would not desert my principles, nor abandon the path that the generous impulses of youth selected, and which my riper judgment sanctions and approves. I would toil on, and hope for better times, till the principles of British liberty and British law had become more generally diffused, and had forced their way into the hearts of my countrymen. In the meantime, I would endeavor to guard their interests : to protect their liberties ; and, while Providence lent me health and strength, the independence of the press should never be violated in my hands. Nor is there a living thing beneath my roof that would not aid me in this struggle ; the wife who sits by my fireside, the

children who play around my hearth, the orphan boys in my office, whom it is my pride and pleasure to instruct from day to day in the obligations they owe to their profession and their country, would never suffer the press to be wounded through my side. We would wear the coarsest raiment ; we would eat the poorest food, and crawl at night into the veriest hovel in the land to rest our weary limbs, but cheerful and undaunted hearts ; and these jobbing justices should feel that one frugal and united family could withstand their persecution, defy their power, and maintain the freedom of the press. Yes, gentlemen, come what will, while I live Nova Scotia shall have the blessing of an open and unshackled press.”

It is almost needless to say that, though the Attorney-General addressed the Jury, urging a conviction, and the Chief Justice charged strongly against the accused, the jury, after ten minutes' deliberation, brought in a verdict of acquittal. The dense crowd in the Court House broke out into shouts of applause, and when Mr. Howe had left the Court-room, he was seized by the populace and borne to his home upon their shoulders. A great procession was formed in the evening, and Mr. Howe was compelled to address the delighted crowd from a window of his house.

In November of the next year, 1836, a dissolution of the Provincial Assembly took place, and naturally Mr. Howe became a candidate for Halifax, Mr. William Annand was his colleague. The great interests of Halifax were bitterly hostile to Mr. Howe. The Lieut. Governor and all the office-holders looked upon him as a dangerous demagogue who would lead the people to ask ugly questions about the privileges of the few. He had also incurred the animosity of the bankers by his views on the currency question. Nevertheless, by his adroit management and his humorous speeches, he succeeded in capturing the masses,