

PREFATORY NOTE.

This paper was first read in part before the Historical Society of Nova Scotia, in the old chamber of the legislative council of the province, so full of the memories of three-quarters of a century, as well as before the professors and students of Acadia College, situated in the beautiful country, so intimately associated with the sad story of the French Acadians. Subsequently it was repeated at the special request of the Mayor and leading citizens of my native town of Sydney, whose history goes back to nearly twelve decades of years. The paper is now printed in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada with the addition of many interesting portraits, and of an appendix containing a number of important documents relating to the constitution and history of the oldest English province of the new Dominion, and now only found in a number of rare and expensive books not always available for students. I have also printed in this appendix the eloquent addresses delivered in 1854 by the Honourable James William Johnston, leader of the Conservative party, and the Honourable Joseph Howe, the eminent exponent of responsible government, on the occasion of the introduction of the first resolution moved and carried in a British North American legislature in favour of the union of the provinces. I have thought that these historic speeches should be known to the people of Canada generally and to the present generation of Nova Scotians especially. My readers will notice that I have not been able to give portraits of Governors Cornwallis and Lawrence, who performed such important functions in connection with the settlement of Nova Scotia after the foundation of Halifax. I have exhausted every effort to find in Europe and America portraits of these two eminent Makers of the province, but so far to no purpose. I have given, with one exception, only the portraits of public men who have long since joined the ranks of the "great majority." The exception is Sir Charles Tupper, who, despite his age of seventy-eight years, displays remarkable intellectual vigour and properly takes a place in these pages as a historical link between the ante-federation and the post-federation times of the province of which he is one of the most distinguished sons. I have also thought it due to the pioneers in the religious development of Nova Scotia to give a brief sketch of the establishment of the five great denominations, the Roman Catholics, Presbyterians, Baptists, Church of England and Methodists—to place them in their numerical order—who comprise in their membership nearly all the population of a province, where the Church has always exercised