

ties, but chiefly by the frankness of his character, the force of his will, his fidelity to his friends, and the blind and fanatical confidence they had in him. For one of his errors was to surround himself with mediocrities, and in preference to favour those who in any case could not give him umbrage. He saw too late the fault he had committed, and he had not time to repair it completely.

(From N. Y. Witness.)

His whole life was spent in keen party warfare, and yet he was one of the best natured and most genial men. He was an excellent human specimen of a game cock, and he did not take the comparison amiss, as he was, though a patriotic Canadian, an intense Frenchman, and the cock was the old Gallican emblem. He was ready at any moment to spring with the utmost pluck to any encounter, and he was as persevering as he was prompt.

Though he ruled for a long time (for he was really the ruling spirit in Canada) by corruption, he kept his own hands clean. His ambition rose far above pecuniary gain, and it must be allowed by one who opposed him through his whole career (except when he was in the right) that his ambition was more to make Canada a great empire, and the French portion of it very influential, than even to raise himself personally. He was placable to his political enemies, or rather did not appear to feel or care for their opposition, and he never forgot a political friend, however unworthy.

The French-Canadian members of Parliament, or at all events a great majority of them, were so completely at his beck, that they were familiarly called his *moutons*, and by their solid vote they gave him the controlling power of the Legislature.

Sir George fought against the British Government when a youth in 1837 and was for a season outlawed, but like several others of the so-called rebels who were not shot or hanged at the time he afterwards rose high in the Government of the country, and favour of the Queen.

In company Sir George was as jovial as a school-boy, and a capital singer and actor of Canadian boat songs.

With all his faults Canada will miss him, for he was a great leader though a little man, and an enterprising, far-seeing and patriotic statesman. The solid body of French-Canadian voters with a more fanatical leader might have proved a very dangerous element.

2. THE HON. JOSEPH HOWE.

Mr. Howe was born in the North-west Arm, Halifax, in 1804, so that he had almost reached the allotted age of three score years and ten. He came from a hardy loyal stock. "During the old times of persecution," said he in one of his speeches, for Mr. Howe like many other great men was fond of talking about himself, "four brothers bearing my name left the southern counties of England, and settled in four of the old New England States. Their descendants number thousands, and are scattered from Maine to California. My father was the only descendant of that stock, who, at the Revolution, adhered to the side of England. His bones rest in the Halifax churchyard. I am his only surviving son." He had but few opportunities for education when a lad, having to walk two miles to get to school in summer, and being kept at home in winter. But his father was a man of culture, and charged himself, as far as time would permit, with his education. At the age of thirteen he was apprenticed to the printing business, and during his apprenticeship developed those talents for literary composition which have since distinguished him. He contributed to the press, over anonymous signatures, a number of pieces in prose and verse during his apprenticeship. In 1827 he purchased the *Weekly Chronicle*, changing its name to the *Acadian*, and commenced his regular connection with the press. Two years afterwards he disposed of his share in the *Acadian*, and purchased the *Nova Scotian*, which he continued to edit until 1841. During the early months of his editorial career, he paid but little attention to politics. But those were stirring times, and an ardent nature like his could not long keep aloof from the all-engrossing questions of the day. Having once entered upon political discussion he became an earnest and vigorous opponent of the abuses by which he found himself surrounded. The result was a libel suit on the part of the Magistracy of Halifax. Mr. Howe always took pleasure in telling the story of this suit. He was as yet comparatively little known, and his powers as a speaker were not even suspected. When he received the writ he consulted two or three professional men, but they all shook their heads, regarded the case as a decidedly bad one, and advised a retraction and apology. Young Howe, however, felt that to retract would be to destroy his influence in the future. He knew he was right; that the cause in which he was battling was the cause of popular freedom, and he resolved to brave all consequences. The result we give, from memory, in his own words, as he related the story some ten years ago to the writer of this article:—"If you cannot undertake

my defence with hope of success, will you lend me your law books treating of the question of libellous publications? I got the books, locked myself up for nearly seven weeks for study, taking no exercise, and abstracting all the time possible from business. Then came the sittings of the Court. On the afternoon before the trial, I abandoned myself to a long tramp near the water's edge, and to fresh air. And on the morning of the eventful day I took my seat, dressed in the unusual garb of a black suit, among the lawyers within the railing, not much concerned at the evident amusement I created. The case was opened; the Crown officer made out a terribly hard case against me; the publication was proved, and I was called upon for my defence. I had had time to scan the faces of the jurymen during the proceedings, and had placed myself on tolerably good terms with them. I opened my address and was pleased to find that I at once challenged attention; as I proceeded with my plea of justification, which was the popular wrong which had been committed and the popular right to be vindicated, I saw a tear steal from the eyes of two or three of the jury, and I felt myself safe in their hands. My address occupied some hours in the delivery, and when I sat down the burst of applause from the crowded court room, which no threatenings of authority were able to suppress, told me my case was won, if I could only get a decision before the impression had time to wear off. I was horrified to find, then, that neither the Crown officer nor the judge was willing that I should have this advantage, and the Court adjourned. Next morning the Attorney-General delivered a tremendous philippic against me, and the judge in his charge uttered one scarcely less terrible. But it was no use; the jury, with scarcely any delay, brought in a verdict of acquittal; the people carried me on their shoulders in triumph from the Court House, and at the next election returned me as their representative from the County of Halifax."

Mr. Howe remained a member of the Legislature of his own Province, without intermission, until 1863, representing, during that time, Halifax, Cumberland and Hants. He laboured with untiring zeal and with wonderful tact for the establishment of responsible government, and to him, perhaps, more than to any other single man, was due the change in the colonial policy of the Empire. He was the recognized leader of the liberal party in his own Province. And while waging the most uncompromising warfare against the colonial policy of the Empire, and the maladministration to which that policy had given rise, he never uttered a disloyal sentiment, or spoke a word which could by any process of perversion be construed into an attack upon British connection. Thoroughly liberal and popular in his opinions, he was an Imperialist of the most decided character. He held, as a first article of political faith, the greater union of the Empire, by the representation of the Colonies in the great Parliament at Westminster; and to his latest hour he never swerved from the opinion that the best interests of the British nation would be subserved by such closer union.

Mr. Howe was known personally to old Canada by his earnest advocacy of the Intercolonial Railway, and by his speeches in that behalf in 1849. His great speech at Detroit, on the subject of the reciprocity treaty in 1865, won for him renewed applause from the people of this and the western Province of the Dominion, and stamped him as the most vigorous orator at that important gathering of the leading commercial minds of the continent. His opposition to the scheme of Confederation in his own Province, made his name familiar in the late political discussions in this country; and the almost entire sweep of his own Province against the scheme, electing eighteen out of the nineteen members to the first Parliament of Canada against it, was a striking proof of his power and popularity. In the presence of an accomplished union, having regard to the future interests of Canada, he consented to submit the grievances of which he complained on behalf of his Province to the fair consideration of the Government, and an arrangement was made by which the people of Nova Scotia were satisfied. Mr. Howe was then offered and accepted a seat in the Cabinet. He has been charged with having sold himself for this position. A greater slander could not be uttered. Whatever faults Joseph Howe had, and being human he was not without them, he was not mercenary. In a long career of public usefulness, he has never been charged with the crime of having an itching palm. He laboured hard in his country's service, and with talents which might have made him rich, he has died a poor man. He entered office at the pressing solicitation of the Government. Having expressed himself satisfied with the re-arrangement of the financial terms, so far as they affected Nova Scotia, it was right that he, the leader of the Anti-Confederates, should show his good faith by accepting office and thus giving a guarantee to the country that the agitation was at an end, and to his friends that their interests were safe in the hands of a government of which he was a member. It was practically the same motive which induced Sir John Macdonald in 1864 to insist upon Mr. Brown taking a seat in the Cabinet, and the position was