

Brunswick, and this proved Mr. Blair's opportunity and gave him the opening that he had for so many years cherished in his heart. He was invited to contest York county, in the liberal interest. He accepted the invitation, entered upon his canvas with all the zeal and enthusiasm of his nature, spoke night and day in almost every parish of his constituency, and, as he had an agreeable manner and a terse way of presenting his views, he made so excellent an impression on the electors, that at the close of the poll he found himself triumphantly returned. He did not take his seat, however, for then, as now, the defeated candidate had something to say, and, refusing to accept the verdict of the people at the ballot-box, threw the case into the Court room. A petition was filed against the new member. He resolved to waste no time over the matter, but promptly resigned. Mr. Speaker issued a new writ, and on the 14th of November, same year, Mr. Blair had the satisfaction of wresting the victory for a second time. The Opposition was weak in numerical strength. The total membership of the House of Assembly was forty-one. Of these the Government had thirty-four, leaving only seven valiant men to oppose the administration, then led by the Hon. John James Fraser, now Mr. Justice Fraser, of the New-Brunswick Supreme Court. In February, 1879, the Legislature was called together, and though Mr. Blair was a new man, unused to the ways of the House, a tyro in politics, and totally unknown to many of the members, he was selected to lead the party of the forlorn hope. Captain of the corporal's guard he was playfully called in those days. It was not long, however, before he furnished the Legislature with proof of his ability, and convinced the ministerialists and oppositionists alike that, in placing the leadership of his party in his hands, no mistake had been made. He readily mastered the practice and procedure of parliament, and, in debate, some of the "old hands" soon discovered that a formidable factor in the speaking and argumentative power of the House had been added. Next to Mr. Fraser in vigour, on the Government side, was Mr. D. L. Harrington, a fiery and bold debater, a man whom many feared to engage on the platform, the hustings, or in parliament. Mr. Michael Adams, now member for Northumberland county in the House of Commons of Canada, young and full of fight, caring little for the feelings of others, and rich in his vocabulary of epithets, held the office of Surveyor-General. The Provincial Secretary was Mr.