

again offered a seat in the Cabinet; but declined it and asked Sir John A. Macdonald to tender that seat to the Hon. Joseph Howe. (Applause.) Mr. Howe had been sent with a large delegation to London to endeavour to secure the appointment of a royal commission to see whether the Act of Confederation could not be broken down. I was sent by the Government of Canada to oppose that effort on the part of Mr. Howe, and to prevent any interference with the Imperial Act as it stood. On that occasion I had an interview with Mr. Howe in the Westminster Palace Hotel. The first call I made in London was on Mr. Howe, and he returned it the following day. We sat down together and discussed the question in all its bearings. He said to me, "Well, Tupper, I cannot say that I am glad to see you here, but since you are here, I suppose we must make the best of it." I said to him, "Mr. Howe, I am going to tell you with the utmost frankness the position that I occupy, and you may give me in return as much as you please. You have been sent here to break down the Act of Confederation, and I expect you to do all you can to accomplish that mission. But you will fail. You will be confronted by an overwhelming majority both in the House of Commons and the House of Lords, who will refuse to interfere with the right of self-government which has long ago been conceded to the provinces of Canada. I then went on to say "when you have failed, as fail you will, the question will then come, 'what next?' and I want to put it to you as a statesman, I want to put it to you as a public man, who has done so much in the past to elevate and advance the interests of the province to which you belong. I want to put it to you as a man who did more to accomplish responsible government than all other public men in Nova Scotia put together. I want to put it to you, when you have used all the efforts in your power to accomplish the mission on which you have been sent here, and have failed, that your next duty will be to take advantage of your position of having the great body of representatives of the people of Nova Scotia at your back, and assume the responsibility of settling the agitation on the basis of better terms for the province of Nova Scotia, but at all events to assume the responsibility of working out this question in such a way as will be just and in the best interests of the province." Mr. Howe met me in the most open spirit, and after discussing the matter in all its bearings, I felt certain that he would adopt a patriotic course. I said to him that I had just refused a seat in the Cabinet, because I wanted to see a man who had the province of Nova Scotia at his back occupy the seat. And I said to him "if you accept that position and assume the responsibility which the more you consider it, the more you will feel it your duty to your country to adopt, instead of finding me an opponent, I am pre-

pared to become your humble follower, and will give you as ardent support as I have ever given your opposition." (Applause.) I knew that devoted as he had been to his province and misled as he had been in regard to confederation, there was an underlying stratum of patriotism which would compel him to adopt the course suggested. I said to him, Mr. Howe, "read that note," and I showed him a note addressed to Sir John A. Macdonald the night before I left Canada, declining and refusing to accept the position of chairman of the Intercolonial Board with a salary of \$4,000 a year, and a seat in Parliament. I said I would tell him my reason for declining that position. I said, "If you refuse to come to your country's aid with the great body of supporters you have at your back, I will take my coat off and agitate the province of Nova Scotia from end to end, and I can do it the better untrammelled by any official position. I pledge myself never to accept a seat in the Cabinet until I am in a position to feel that I have the confidence of the representatives of Nova Scotia." Mr. Howe, animated by the loftiest patriotism, decided to adopt the course I suggested, we came back and entered the Cabinet, with a result that he soon had around him the whole or almost the whole delegation of the representatives of Nova Scotia. And I have no hesitation in saying that it was the proudest moment of my life when I was able to induce 900 of the independent electors of the county of Hants to poll their votes for the man whom they had always previously opposed.

I now come to the next subject. At a very early day in 1870, within two years after the discussion with Mr. Howe, to which I have just referred, I was approached by almost the entire body of the representatives of Nova Scotia, who had been sent to Parliament to oppose me, and was asked to take a seat in the Government, and was assured that if I did so I would have their support. I went into the Cabinet and Mr. Howe and I were united. In 1872 we went to a general election with the result that both Mr. Howe and myself were sustained, and we had returned by the province of Nova Scotia every man pledged to support the Government of which we were members. Both Mr. Howe and I had been for long years, as you know, in an attitude of the bitterest political antagonism. It was a saying of Mr. Howe, whether original or not I do not know—though he was a man who had no occasion to make use of expressions that were not original—that the smaller the pit the fiercer the rats would fight. That was the state of things between us in the olden times; we exchanged many severe blows. But when the lieutenant-governorship of Nova Scotia became vacant I went to Sir John A. Macdonald and said to him, "I want you to offer that position to Mr. Howe. His health has been severely broken