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SIR JOHN THOMPSON.

In the Canadian Gazette, published in London, Eng., is a leading article written by Sir Charles Tupper, in which he gives some reminiscences of Sir John Thompson, Premier of Canada, who was then lying dead in London. Following is the article:—

I knew the statesman whose sudden and untimely death we all deeply deplore, from the time when he was just entering upon manhood. He was then a clerk in a lawyer's office in Halifax and a reporter of the debates in the Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia—of which I was a member

—and a most accurate and admirable reporter he was. I also knew his father well; he was a much respected citizen, and became Queen's printer and superintendent of the money order system. From the clerk's desk and reporter's gallery this young man went to the Bar, and we watched with sympathetic interest his rapid progress. He showed the greatest acumen, never missing a point, and soon rose by sheer ability, both as an advocate and a consulting lawyer, to the very first rank in his profession at Halifax. He was twenty-one years of age when he was called to the Bar, and by the time he was thirty-five he was a Queen's Counsel and Attorney-General, and afterwards Premier of his native Province. In these capacities he served Nova Scotia with distinction, and, in 1882, was appointed to the bench as Judge of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia by the Dominion Government of which I was at that time a member.

In September, 1885, my son, Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, who was then as now Member for Pictou in the Dominion House of Commons, suggested to Sir John Macdonald that could the Nova Scotian judge be induced to join the Ministry he would be found to be a jurist of a high order, an admirable speaker, and a great strength to the Ministry. I confirmed that suggestion. But the way was not at once clear. Sir John Thompson (Judge Thompson he was then called) listened to all that could be said of the service he might render Canada as a Member of the Ministry, but he would not leave the bench except with the concurrence of his closest friend and confidant, Bishop Cameron of Antigonish. Sir John Macdonald pointed out to me that there was no one who had more influence with Bishop Cameron than myself: would I go down to Antigonish and see the bishop? I went, and after pointing out to Bishop Cameron what a wide sphere of influence the step would open up for his friend, he concurred, and Judge Thompson became M.P. for Antigonish, and Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of Canada.

When Sir John Macdonald was explaining the Cabinet changes of 1885 to the Dominion House of Commons he simply said he would not praise the new Minister of Justice, the House would soon see for itself the wisdom of the choice. And the House did. The first speech of the Minister of Justice was a reply to Mr. Blake upon the Riel question, and no sooner had he resumed his seat than every man on both sides of the House recognized that as a lawyer and a debater he had no superior within those walls.

I have seen it said somewhere that there were some murmurings among the political supporters of his own party at the appointment. I knew of none. His selection as Minister of Justice was hailed with hearty approval by every one of the political friends of the Ministry, and that approval only increased as time served to bring into prominence his high integrity and marked ability. I was myself his colleague in the Dominion Cabinet in 1887-88, and I well recall what weight was attached to his judgment. While always extremely genial, he was diffident rather than otherwise, but when the time came to give his opinion he gave it in no hesitating spirit, and with a wealth of argument and good sense which gained for it the greatest possible consideration from Sir John Macdonald and every member of the Cabinet. His opponents, too, treated him with a respect which was most marked. Prominent among