

ion as against those of the province. He insisted, after the rejection of the award by the Dominion Parliament, that the question be submitted to the Privy Council, and the event ultimately proved his contention to have been correct and the course that he had proposed the only safe one that could have been taken.

In the disallowance agitation of 1882 he again appeared to be on the unpopular side. He, however, did not hesitate to affirm the conviction that a strong central government was vitally necessary to a strong confederation and to deprecate any efforts on the part of provincial governments to weaken it for selfish ends. Throughout the reverses with which he met at the polls he never abandoned this principle. He also took strong ground on the question of education. He enunciated the principle that to place a political head over the education department is to make it a political machine and so greatly lessen its influence for good. During his last campaign on many occasions he expressed his views on this matter. He fought for a ballot in the separate schools and against the exercising of undue clerical influence in educational matters. His newspaper discussion with Archbishop Cleary attracted wide attention and to a great extent defined the line of cleavage between the parties. His opinions in this connection are too well known to need repetition here. His course during his last session in the Legislature was marked by a number of stirring debates, during which Judge Meredith often displayed an intimacy with the smallest details of departmental expenditure and at the same time a comprehensive grasp of the legislation before the house, which astonished even his intimate friends, who were familiar with his habits of study and extended investigation. In 1883 he was presented by his party friends in the Legislature with a solid silver service in acknowledgment of his eminent public service. A more signal tribute to his talents and effective efforts was paid by the government itself in making provision for a salary of two thousand dollars a year to him as leader of the Opposition. This, however, he declined to receive.

His Lordship was raised to the Bench as Chief Justice of the Common Pleas of the High Court of Justice of Ontario, October 5, 1894. One of the