On the 30th of October, 1883, on the occasion of the opening of the Law School in connection with Dalhousie College, Halifax, N. S., Sir Adams delivered the inaugural address.

In 1888, a vacancy occurring in the representation of Colchester, through the appointment of Hon. A. W. McLelan as Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, Sir Adams was again elected to the House of Commons. On account of advancing age he declined a renewed nomination at the general election in 1891, and then permanently withdrew from public life.

Sir Adams, feeling that the term of his efficient service was near its close, addressed a letter to the Secretary of the Historical Society declining to be nominated for President at the annual meeting in February, 1892. The Society, however, would not entertain the idea, and reelected him by a cordial and unanimous vote.

Failing health, followed by serious illness, terminated the brilliant career of this distinguished Nova Scotian at his Truro residence, on the 14th December, 1892, in his 79th year. His remains now rest in the public cemetery of his native town, where a cruciform black marble slab, with appropriate inscription, marks his grave. He leaves no son to inherit his name, one on whom his hopes had centred having been cut off in early youth. Lady Archibald and three daughters survive him. One of these is married to the Right Reverend L. Jones, D. D., Bishop of Newfoundland and Bermuda; another is the relict of the late F. D. Laurie, Esq., of Pictou; and the third, the wife of the Rev. Reginald Thomas Heygate, Rector of Halifax, England.