

is not the least praise which is justly his due, that in such times as those in which he lived, he never gave cause of personal offence, nor descended to those methods of party warfare, but now too common even among our most prominent politicians. Respected by society, beloved by all who enjoyed his intimate acquaintance, his loss was deeply felt, and Mr. Solicitor-General Stuart sank to the tomb, leaving a blank which as yet has not been filled.

SIR JAMES STUART, BART.

Mr. Stuart won our hearts by his genial manners, his truthful *bon-homme* and his sparkling, delightful conversation. Sir James, his elder brother, commanded our admiration by the solidity of his talent, the precision of his judgment, and his inflexible integrity. There was one prominent trait in his character which all must have admired. He never shrank from announcing and defending his position, but like Doctor Johnson he was too apt to undervalue the opinions of others, and this failing often led him astray. To him the latter part of the motto which he had adopted on being created a Baronet—“*justitia, propositi que tenax*”—was peculiarly applicable. His mind was a store of rare-legal knowledge free from pedantry, yet his dogmas were sometimes advanced in a manner that galled rather than convinced his opponents. In his speeches either in the House of Assembly or in the Courts of Law he seldom, if ever, condescended to step out of his path to search for adventitious graces or the lighter ornaments of wit. He was always massive and often carried his antipathies too far—even his jests were ponderous. With him wit was a mere implement to prolong the torture of his victim; his maxim generally, was to crush at once and for ever.

Sir James' political tenets would scarcely have suited the present times: and yet in his day few men in Canada exercised a greater influence in conducting the present position of affairs. In looking at parties, his view was bounded by the geographical limits of Lower Canada. Like most others, he fancied that the Upper Province might be considered as purely British; and he labored for the union as the only means of conquering an antagonistic principle.

When the question of a union of the Provinces arose, in 1821-22, there were few in Upper Canada who favored the idea—its trade was limited, its population sparse, its power as nothing compared with that of the great rival in which fancy pictured it would be absorbed. Should any union take place our leading men thought it should be a federal union of the British North American Provinces, a federalization which would then have been formed without any cohesive bond or much common interest to unite the parts. With such a union the terms of capitulation were not worth the sacrifice each section would have been called upon to make; and Sir James must