

the information they give as to the opinions on Colonial policy held by the leading public men of that period.

A tour through England and Scotland and on the Continent occupied part of the time mentioned, and a happy conclusion was his marriage. Immediately after this he returned to Canada, where he devoted himself to the duties of his office and his profession. In 1818 Attorney-General Boulton was appointed a judge, and Mr. Robinson succeeded him as Attorney-General. In 1821 he was elected member for York (now Toronto) in the House of Assembly for which place he continued to sit until 1829.

About this time the question of a legislative union between Upper and Lower Canada already referred to had been under discussion though not carried out till twenty years later. At this time, and always, this union of the two Provinces was strongly opposed by Mr. Robinson, both verbally and in writing, but as an alternative proposition he urged a legislative union of all the British American Colonies. He was therefore one of the first and most able advocates of what afterwards was known as Confederation, which was in fact carried into effect four years after his death. He was indeed a true Imperialist as the following extract from a pamphlet which he wrote in 1823 clearly shews: "The actual consolidation of the British Empire would be at least a grand measure of national policy. To unite the British North American Provinces would put an end to all danger and inconveniences from petty factions and local discontents, and secure the public counsels of all the colonies from foreign influence."

In 1829 Mr. Robinson's political career came to a close for he then accepted the position of Chief Justice of Upper Canada, vacant by the resignation of Chief Justice Campbell. For nine years he had been the representative of the government in the Legislative Assembly, and the leader of the Conservative party. During that period his duties had been onerous and his responsibilities heavy. He was firm in his convictions and resolute in carrying them out, but, to use the language of Marshal Spring Bidwell, a strong political opponent, "he was always courteous, communicative and obliging." Mr. Bidwell also bears witness