

And names, which, in days gone by, were
 spells,
 Are blent with that soft music. If there
 dwells
 The spirit here our country's fame to
 spread,
 Where every breast with joy and triumph
 swells,
 And earth reverberates to our measured
 tread,
 Banner and wreath will own our reverence
 for the dead.

“The Roman gather'd in a stately urn
 The dust he honoured—while the sacred
 fire
 Nourish'd by vestal hands was made to
 burn
 From age to age. If fitly you'd aspire,
 Honour the dead; and let the sounding
 lyre
 Recount their virtues in your festal hours?
 Gather their ashes—higher still, and
 higher
 Nourish the patriot flame that history
 dowers,
 And o'er the old men's graves go strew
 your choicest flowers.”

Sir Charles Tupper.

On the retirement of Mr. Johnston from the field of political competition the leadership of the Conservative party devolved naturally upon Dr. Tupper, a descendant of a pre-loyalist stock. He became one of the most influential actors in the public affairs not only of Nova Scotia but of the new Dominion. He established the present admirable system of public education in the country, where it was, previous to 1864, in a most deplorable condition. It was largely through his remarkable pertinacity that the Confederation was eventually established, and though so many years have passed since those eventful and trying times, he is still an active and conspicuous figure in political life, while the voices of his famous compeers have long since been hushed in the grave. He continues to show that tenacity of opinion, that power of argument, that confidence in himself, and that belief in Canada's ability to hold her own on this continent, which

have been always characteristics of a remarkable career, and though he is now drawing to the end of his eighth decade of years, time has in no sense dimmed his intellect, but on the contrary he is capable of the same vigorous oratory which was first displayed in the old chamber of the assembly of Nova Scotia, while the progress of age has only given additional breadth to his statesmanship.

It does not, however, fall within the scope of this paper to refer to men who are still alive. The time has not come for speaking calmly and dispassionately on the merits of men like the venerable chief of the Opposition, who has, naturally, in the course of a remarkable life, evoked many antagonisms. Be that as it may, Nova Scotians, Liberals and Conservatives alike, cannot fail to admit that his intellect, energy, and oratory entitle him to the highest place in the roll of Nova Scotia's most distinguished statesmen.

Sir John Thompson.

I have still before me the well-known figure of Sir John Thompson, the friend of my early manhood as well as of later years. All will admit he was a statesman of worthy ambitions and noble motives, a remarkably close reasoner, and a logical speaker, who had hardly an equal for clearness of expression in the House of Commons of Canada. His life in the Dominion field of politics was one of promise rather than of performance in successful statesmanship, and I doubt very much if he could ever have been willing to master all the arts and intrigues of a successful politician. In him Canada lost a man who, above all others, would have brought to the supreme court of Canada, or to the judicial committee of the Privy Council of the Empire, a clearness of intellect, a soundness of judgment, and an