

sand voices were lifted against it from a thousand stumps. The Liberals were pledged to make havoc of it, if they were returned to power. Magistrates all over the province, whom it deprived of the share they had had in governing the counties, and an army of people who had been accustomed, before the Act was passed, to obtain or look for appointments carrying with them the expenditure of road and bridge moneys, fought for its repeal with all their might. After a hotly contested campaign, the Government was defeated at the polls, in July, 1882, by a majority of five members. Mr. Thompson was himself again returned for Antigonish. A Liberal Government came in, and, a month or two later, he was, to the great acceptance of the Bar of the province, appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Nova-Scotia. When he went out of the House of Assembly, he was in his thirty-eighth year. He had been a severely honest politician; and though politics, perhaps, were not wholly congenial to him, he had won a high reputation in his province. It was chiefly as a jurist that he had stood forth from amongst his colleagues in the Cabinet. Then as now, he never engaged in debate without making manifest his great knowledge of law and of the principles of law. When he was in the Government of Nova-Scotia, the public affairs of that province were in an unusually critical condition. He attempted several reforms, among them the abolition of the Provincial Senate or Legislative Council. The work of constructing the railway from New-Glasgow to the Strait of Canso, which had been abandoned under the previous administration, was resumed under new conditions, and the road completed before 1882. The railway in the western counties, which had likewise been abandoned, was finished from Digby to Yarmouth, a distance of eighty miles, and put into operation. The preceding Government had made the beginning of a floating public debt, and the incoming administration had to take up a burden of more than \$300,000. When Mr. Thompson retired from office in 1882 and made way for the Liberals, the debt had been decreased and the regular expenditure so far lowered as to be brought within the limits of the income of the province.

His father was a friend and associate of Joseph Howe, and thus, though his strongest predilections have always been for the study and administration of law, there is something to be said on the score of heredity for his having become a politician. When he accepted,