

## 6 Recollections of Sixty Years

In 1860 Dr. Tupper, then in opposition, was invited to open the Mechanics' Institute at St. John, N.B. This he did by a lecture on "The Political Condition of British North America," in which he declared for Confederation unreservedly. In the light of later events parts of this speech were indeed prophetic.\* After reviewing the condition of the scattered provinces, he said:

*"Who could doubt that under these circumstances, with such a federation of the five provinces (to which ultimately the Red River and the Saskatchewan country might be added) as would give us the position due to our extent, resources and intelligent population, untrammelled either by slavery or the ascendancy of any dominant Church; almost the last country where civil and religious liberty exists, British America, stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, would in a few years present to the world a great and powerful organisation; with British institutions, sympathies and feelings; bound indissolubly to the throne of England by a community of interests, and united to it by the viceroyalty of one of the promising sons of our beloved Queen, whose virtues have enthroned her in the hearts of her subjects in every section of an Empire upon which the sun never sets."*

In the session of 1861 Premier Howe, who was an astute politician and keenly alive to the activities of his young rival, submitted a resolution to the Nova Scotia Legislature in favour of Confederation. The resolution was seconded by Dr. Tupper, and was unanimously adopted. This was

\* The greater part of this lecture is reprinted in Chapter I of this volume.

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