

many respects. It destroyed confidence on the part of multitudes of persons in Nova Scotia in regard to the great leader. It was the first time he had been placed in such peculiar and embarrassing circumstances, and if he could have exerted his influence in some other way except by going into the Cabinet at Qttawa, it would have been far better from an historicial point of view. Howe's reputation, it must be understood, and his position as a great man, is dependent not at all upon his career as a politician. His letters and addresses to the people of England, together with his utterances in regard to various matters are of so much higher and more dignified character than that of any other public man of Canada, or in the Empire for that matter, that his reputation is beyond doubt or question, but no doubt he is placed under a peculiar state of things by people who do not reason well on account of his sudden change in the matter of confederation.

The meeting in Windsor was held about February, 1869, and it was the first appearance of Howe before an audience in Nova Scotia since he had accepted office, and those present on that occasion filled the court house to overflowing and it was necessary for Howe when passing up to the platform to elbow his way as best he could through the crowd of people. His first reception was entirely unfavourable. He was received with shouts and hoots and hisses all the way from the door to the platform. He began his speech, as he did all his speeches, with a desire to please and create an impression in his favour, but he was handicapped throughout by the hostile feeling which came from all parts of the court-house and was chiefly engineered by a crowd of men who had organized for that purpose. He was followed by Mr. M. H. Goudge, who was then alive and active in public life and was President of the Legislative Council at the age of ninety-

one, but who died only a few months ago. He spoke but a short time and was received with tremendous applause. Hon. A. G. Jones followed and made a very formidable speech as representing the opposition interests in the Province, and he spoke with considerable effect and amid great applause. When he had finished, it was twilight, and the lights had been lit in the court-house. Howe rose to reply, and all the innate force of the man and his power over masses of people never came at a greater advantage. The little clique of clackers were silenced, and great applause burst forth from the people assembled, as Howe proceeded. At last he came to this passage:

"But my friend Mr. Goudge says that I am ambitious. Ambitious am I? Well, I was ambitious that Nova Scotia should have a free press and free, responsible government. I fought for it and I won it. Ambitious am I? Well, a man at my time of life can be supposed to have but little ambition any way, but I am ambitious that when in my declining years I ride up and down the length and breadth of Nova Scotia I may receive the same confidence and love from her sons that in days gone by I received from their sires."

The audience then burst out into loud applause.

Although Mr. Howe was successful in this election, he was subjected to a serious breakdown on account of his health, which was now beginning to fail, and the campaign on behalf of his election had to be carried on by others of his friends. It is said that when he broke down in health and was staying at a certain place in the county of Hants in bed, Dr. Tupper took advantage of the occasion and quietly went to his bedside without having any noise or fuss made about it, and told him that he sympathized with him in the great contest that was going on and that he had every confidence that he would win, but, if by any accident he should fail, he, Tupper, would place the constituency of Cumberland at his disposal and see