

ANDREW GEORGE BLAIR

In the political life of the Maritime Provinces of Canada, two prominent names force themselves irresistibly to the front. Both are natives of their respective provinces. Both are men of courage, fixedness of purpose, energy, enterprise, and marvellous industry. Both are comparatively young in years, being under fifty, and both began the task of governing, as chief minister, within a few months of one another. Side by side these two men have worked, with only the provincial line between them, and each in his way has carried out to the best of his ability the principles of liberalism in its highest sense. William Stevens Fielding, the Premier of Nova-Scotia, had the great and overpowering influence of Joseph Howe to mould and direct his course, and to instil him with that patriotic feeling and ardor which never deserted him. The lessons thus gained at the very feet of the master, as it were, have never been forgotten by the young disciple. They belonged to the old liberal school, - the school which gave us constitutional government and constitutional freedom, and scattered to the four winds of heaven that curse and clog of our early history and struggles, Family Compactism. Howe was more than a model to his youthful *protégé*. He was his friend and teacher, companion and adviser. It was to the great tribune of the people that young Fielding owed that passion for politics and statecraft, which has never left him. It was Howe who fashioned his career, but the younger man, progressing with the spirit of the age, has made his own record, and time will find his name among the strong leaders of men, in that brave band of sons of New-Scotland who have become famous throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion. Andrew George Blair, the Premier of New-Brunswick, had also, in early life, surroundings which must have made a deep impression upon his mind. He was a mere boy when Tilley and Mitchell, Wilmot and Ritchie,