

INTRODUCTION

and distinguished career. Precisely the same statement could not, perhaps, at this late day, be made with reference to the late Joseph Howe. Yet even in the minds of the present generation of Nova Scotians there is an approximately adequate conception of the character and career of that eminent statesman. He is known to us from the collection of speeches and public letters printed during his lifetime under the editorial supervision of his colleague, Mr. Annand, and the running historical comment connecting the speeches and letters, given under the authority of Mr. Annand's name, but which exceedingly well-grounded tradition ascribes to the subject of the biography himself. What manner of man he was would be still more widely known to his fellow-countrymen if the exceedingly entertaining and lifelike portrait from the hand of Mr. Justice Longley had as wide a popular circulation as it is desirable that such a work should have. It has remained for the author of the present volume to rescue from comparative oblivion the record of Mr. Johnstone's achievements and make known to the present generation the merits of one who well deserves to be had in remembrance of his countrymen, whose memory might easily have ceased to be a national treasure had it not been for the labour of love which the author has brought to so successful an issue in the production of the tribute which constitutes the special value of the present volume.

It seems a little singular that one who occupied so large a place upon the stage of politics and public life should have become so imperfectly known to the generation that has come after him. His intense force and vehement eloquence as an advocate, as well as his incorruptible integrity, his wide learning and his patient and painstaking industry as Judge in Equity for the Province of Nova Scotia, are among the cherished traditions of the profession of which he was, in his lifetime, the most distinguished ornament. But to his parliamentary record