

that Mr. Fielding had also intimated his intention of abandoning provincial politics and of entering the Dominion arena, which was expected also to add strength to the administration in these two provinces. Messrs. Greenaway's and Clifton's names were freely mentioned in the province of Manitoba and Mr. Blair was mentioned as likely to enter the Federal sphere in the province of New Brunswick. When, however, the crucial moment arrived, none of these gentlemen seemed disposed to take any risks. If Mr. Laurier won they were prepared to go in and share his victory with him, but none of them were willing to accept any danger or expose themselves to the risk of losing the substance by grasping at the shadow. The only one, indeed, of the provincial Ministers who stood to his guns to the end, was the Attorney General of Nova Scotia.

His candidature, naturally, evoked the greatest efforts on the part of his opponents throughout the province. Special efforts were made to secure his defeat, and with success, and, for the first time in his life, he experienced the vicissitudes of failure at a political election. Many thought that this would end his political career; and rejoiced in anticipation of his downfall. It did not happen quite thus, because, on Mr. Fielding's taking office in the Dominion Government, and Mr. George¹ Murray being called upon to form an administration, he promptly asked Mr. Longley to resume his position as Attorney General of the province, which he did, was re-elected to the Provincial Legislature by acclamation on August 15th. 1896, carried his election for Annapolis April 1897 at the general election by a large majority, and bids fair to continue to hold his present office until 1902 which will make a record of twenty years unbroken representation of the county of Annapolis, and sixteen years holding the office of Attorney General, a record that has never been approached since responsible government was introduced.

It is an open secret, however, that for some time past Mr. Longley's tastes and efforts have been in the direction of literary and philosophical work rather than the routine of political drudgery. While possessing very great aptitude in affairs, and having exceptional powers as a public speaker, it may still be doubted whether a cast of mind like Mr. Longley's was ever adapted to secure the highest position in the political field. The history of responsible government has shewn that those who reach the highest positions in political life are generally men who do not possess strong opinions, who are extremely careful about uttering them, who are quite content to adjust themselves from time to time to the exigencies of the moment, spreading their sails to catch breezes from any and all quarters. The secret of political success nowadays, in the main, is a good-natured opportunism, which sacrifices principles, and abandons the right to have or express opinions.

Such a man Mr. Longley certainly is not. For the last ten or fifteen years he has been discussing in the magazines of England, the United States and Canada all the leading questions of the day,