

chamber, the useless and expensive appendage to the parliamentary system of his province. Ontario had refused, in 1867, to add to her burdens a Legislative Council. Quebec insisted on retaining her Upper House, and the other parties to the union did not object. Nova-Scotia had made several efforts to get rid of her appointed chamber. Mr. Blair had moved in the same direction two or three times, but without accomplishing his mission. The councillors, when appealed to, turned a deaf ear to the plea and declined to commit, upon their own persons, the act of happy despatch, though the act itself would have been the most popular one that they could commit. In vain Mr. Blair pleaded with all his earnestness. In vain he strengthened his argument by urging the great expense of an institution whose power for usefulness was absolutely *nil*. The resources of the province, he declared, could not support two houses of legislation. He waited until he had four or five vacancies, and then filled them up with men pledged to vote for their own decapitation. When the time for the vote came round, some of these new appointees forgot their pledges and the Council remained. Mr. Blair then tried again the art of blandishment. He succeeded in inducing the councillors to consent to abolish themselves, when dissolution of the Legislature should take place, at that time, in the ordinary nature of things, at least four years off. In two years time, however, in 1892, he secured at the hands of Lieutenant-Governor Tilley, who had no obstacle to interpose, the dissolution he asked for. Of course that act destroyed, at a single blow, the Legislative Council. Some of its members showed their good faith by running for seats in the popular branch. In few cases, if in any, were any of them elected. The Government swept the province by increased majorities in many sections, but the fates, strange to say, were opposed to the Premier, and he suffered a bitter defeat in his native County of York, the constituency which he had represented so faithfully and uninterruptedly from the first day that he had entered public life and to whose political welfare he had contributed so largely. Kingston, in one of the greatest parliamentary contests ever witnessed in Canada, that of 1878, treated Sir John A. Macdonald in a similar way. His party rode into power on the N. P. cry, but the veteran was beaten in the old lime-stone city, the scene of his many victories. The life-long allegiance was transferred to other hands. This Sir John felt as keenly as did Mr. Blair