

ter opponent of the other. It is not necessary for me to say whether my favorite was Johnston or Howe, but I believed in my idol with that sincere and simple faith which belongs to those who accept the opinions of others upon trust, without taking the trouble to examine the grounds of their belief, and I disbelieved in my idol's opponent, and could not help thinking of him always as a very bad man. At that time and as long as they led the two political parties which divided the province the feeling between Howe and Johnston was one of strong antagonism, and the attitude of their friends and partisans towards the other side can only be described as one of extreme bitterness. Very harsh things were said by the friends of Howe against Johnston and equally harsh things were said by the friends of the latter against Howe. The party newspapers were especially severe in their comments and charges of corruption and other political crimes were as freely made as they are by certain party organs at the present day. Nor was this the worst, for the charges were believed and accepted as absolute verity by men who were devout party men, and therefore always willing to put the worst possible construction on the acts of their political opponents.

Howe and Johnston have been lying in the grave for many years, the issues upon which they differed have been long since decided, the causes of estrangement which arose between them have almost passed out of human memory, the harsh words which were employed by the friends of the one against the other have ceased to have any meaning. A new generation has arisen in Nova Scotia which looks back upon the period of its history in which they filled so large a space, not with partizan feelings but with the sympathetic interest of students and friends. There is not, in Nova Scotia to-day I suppose, a man who would not agree with me in saying that both Johnston and Howe were men of whom their country has a right to be proud. They were statesmen who, although the sphere of their activities was in a small province, possessed the ability to guide the destinies of a nation. They were honest men who never made or sought to make any money in the service of their country; they were patriots to whom their native land was the dearest spot on earth and whose interests were ever in their minds. Who will now venture to deny that Howe and Johnston were worthy of any honor that their country can now bestow on their memory. If that can best be preserved by statues in the legislative halls of their country who would not cheerfully agree with me that the features and form of the old man eloquent and of the great tribune of the people should be preserved in stone so that they might be seen and studied by future generations. Yet how sad it is to think that so large a part of the appreciation of the merits of these two great men has arisen only since their death, and that while they were living and in active political life, one-half of their countrymen viewed them with suspicion and distrust. Yet we know that whatever claims they have to