

Legislature in December, 1877. He became Premier of his native province in May, 1882, resigning and being appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia in July, 1882. This office he held till September, 1885, when he resigned on being sworn of the Privy Council of Canada and appointed Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of Canada. He was first returned to the Commons 16th October, 1885. He took part in the Fishery Commission at Washington in 1887 and was created a K.C.M.G., for his services. On the death of Sir John Macdonald, 6th June, 1891, he was sent for to form a ministry, but declined in favour of Sir John Abbott, who formed the fourth Ministry. When Sir John Abbott resigned, owing to ill-health, Sir John Thompson undertook the task of forming the Ministry of which he was Premier at the time of his death. While he was Attorney-General of Canada he was appointed one of the British representatives of the Court of Arbitration, created under the Treaty of Arbitration entered into by Great Britain and the United States of America on February 29th, 1892, for the amicable settlement of the questions which had arisen between the countries concerning the jurisdictional rights of the United States in the waters of Behring Sea. This court met in Paris, France, in March, 1892, and, after many sittings, delivered to the agents of Great Britain and the United States the decision of the Court on the 15th of August. In this position Sir John Thompson distinguished himself greatly and reflected high credit on his native land.

Our Queen, deeply affected by the sudden death of her Canadian Councillor, ordered the remains to be transferred to Canada by H. M. S. "Blenheim," and did everything in her power to express her sense of the loss she and her people had sustained. The people of Canada, without respect to creed or politics, expressed their profound sorrow in every possible way. A State funeral was decreed. The Countess of Aberdeen at a meeting held in Ottawa moved the following resolution and made the accompanying remarks :

"That the Ottawa local Council of Women do tender Lady Thompson the respectful assurance of their sincere and earnest sympathy with herself and her family in their great bereavement ; and that the Council desire also to express their deep sense of the public loss sustained by the country in the death of the late eminent Premier of Canada."

"Ladies, but few words are needed to present this resolution to you : it carries its own force, and we in Ottawa have the best reason to know what it means. If the death of our Premier means a blank in the Empire, if it is mourned as a personal loss from one end of the Dominion to the other, what must it be to the city where he lived his noble, beautiful, simple life, and where the weight of his influence and co-operation could always be depended upon in support of all that was for the good and happiness of the people ? We alone of all the cities of the Dominion can know what it means to have such a man, such a premier, taken away from our midst ; and further, we women members of this Council, have especial reason to mourn, for we can well remember the words which he spoke but a few short months ago from this very platform, when he declared his faith in the great career of usefulness that was opening before the National Council in Canada, and his determination to stand by us at all times and seasons. And these were not mere words, as I have good reason to know, for during the inception of our work he was at all times ready with his advice and assistance. His faith in our