

in measures of reform. For the most part, men, not measures, formed the bond by which the two great parties were held together.

With the exception of an interval of three years, from 1857 to 1860, when the Tories held the reins of power, the Liberals ruled the country for a period of fifteen years. There were good men on both sides. Each party formed a check on the other to prevent abuses ; and each stimulated the other to greater activity in doing good. Just as we might expect, therefore, wise measures were adopted of the highest importance to the welfare of the country. The two great things to be spoken of in this chapter are the introduction of railways, and the founding of free schools.

**Railways, 1854, A.D.—** The subject of building railways was talked of some time before anything was done. Mr. Johnstone and his party thought the work should be done by companies. Finally, the Assembly resolved that the Government should build lines from Halifax to Windsor and to Pictou. Mr. Howe was appointed Chairman of the Railway Board, and the work was pushed on rapidly. A few miles of the road were opened in February 1855.

In the year 1852 Sir John Harvey, the good old soldier governor, who was always trying to make peace by kind words, died at Halifax. Our next governor was Sir Gaspard Le Marchant.

In the year 1854 an Industrial Exhibition was held at Halifax. In the autumn of the following year the Normal School was opened at Truro.

**Nova Scotian Heroes.—** About this time a great war was raging in Europe,—Great Britain, France, Turkey. and Italy on the one side ; and