

partly because there is so little to be known about his own life and partly because much as to his character and abilities can be gathered from what we know of those who had gone before him. That the character and abilities were largely hereditary is indicated by the facts that while John W. Ritchie ended his professional career as Judge in Equity of his native province, the third brother in the family, William Johnstone Ritchie, was successively *puisne* judge and Chief Justice of New Brunswick and a Judge and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, and that Joseph Norman Ritchie was for several years a Judge of our Supreme Court. George Wildman died before attaining the age looked upon as qualifying for a seat on the Bench, and James J. disqualified himself by giving up law for the higher calling of divinity. He however left two sons, who became prominent members of his original profession, and one of whom occupies, to the great satisfaction of suitors and counsel, the judicial position which seems to be in some sort a belonging of the Ritchie family.

Turning now to the more immediate subject of this paper, we learn from the *Recollections of a Georgia Loyalist* that, when Mrs. William Martin Johnston returned from Jamaica to Annapolis in 1810, she found that "My Eliza had two dear boys. John was two and a half years old, Thomas, a stout boy, ten months old." Further on we are told, "As soon as I went to housekeeping I relieved her (Mrs. Thomas Ritchie) of part of her care by having John stay with us." We are also told that John was a special favorite of his great-grandfather John Lightenstone. At page 124 of the *Recollections*, Mrs. Johnston says that, "Until John was three years of age, he lived with me, and from an old fashioned prayer-book with large print I taught him his letters and to spell little words." Mrs. Ritchie died on the 19th of June, 1819, when John was something over eleven years of age. In connection with her daughter's death we have the following from Mrs. Johnston. "I soon broke up housekeeping to live with Mr. Ritchie and watch over his children's health and morals. I stood to them