

XXVIII.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT ALEXANDER HARRISON,
CHIEF JUSTICE OF ONTARIO.



THE feeling which possessed me when reading Thomas Carlyle's "French Revolution," possesses me in writing of Robert A. Harrison—a feeling of wonder and amazement at the amount of work some men undertake for the accomplishment of a purpose. Thomas Carlyle set out in life with a determination to make himself a great man by unceasing labor: his works shew how completely he succeeded in the attainment of the prize. Thomas Carlyle was the architect of his own future in literature. Chief Justice the Honorable Robert A. Harrison was the architect of his own future in law.

I do not wish my readers to understand that, in associating the name of Carlyle with that of a Chief Justice in Canada, I do so for the purpose of making a comparison of men: it is rather with a view of illustrating the value of work, and perseverance in work, in the accomplishment of any object in any walk of life. All philosophers are not lawyers, nor are all lawyers philosophers; yet there is so much of philosophy in law that there is, after all, a kind of kinship—an association of ideas. John Locke, perhaps the greatest, but certainly the most characteristic of English philosophers, has given us instruction on "association of ideas." He is indeed said to have been