

PRESENTATION TO JUDGE GOWAN—THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

preside, and to impress the public with the feeling of respect, never withheld from a Court of Justice, however limited its sphere, where order and decorum obtain.

"From the first I felt that this could be best done with the aid of an educated and honorable Bar, who would feel with me that we were all ministers of justice—all equally striving for the same great end. From the profession in this County I have always received the greatest aid in the discharge of my judicial duties, and it is to your cordial co-operation and support I am indebted for a measure of success that, unassisted and unsupported, I could scarcely have obtained.

"In gladly according to the Bar every privilege they could fairly claim: in fostering a right feeling in their intercourse with each other: in publicly combating prejudices against them, I have ever felt I was strictly within the line of duty; but I think you will acquit me of the weakness which fails to look for the inherent merits of a case in admiration for the skill and zeal of counsel.

It is most gratifying to me that you rightly possess the respect of the whole community, and I can with great truth say that honor, learning and ability, are characteristics of the legal profession in this district.

"At the age of twenty-five I entered with ardor on a work I liked, and though this judicial District was then, as now, the largest in Upper Canada, I felt equal to the labor, and I am able to say, through God's goodness to me, that during a period of nearly twenty-six years I have never been absent from the Superior Courts over which I preside, and, as to the Division Courts (except when on other duties at the instance of the Government) fifty days would cover all the occasions when a deputy acted for me. I have, I may be pardoned for saying, undergone labors and exposure of the most trying kind, as most of you know; but few are aware that those labors have left me with a seriously impaired constitution; yet I trust there is still in me some years of work, and nowhere could I be so happy in living and acting as amongst those whom I have known and valued so long.

"And now gentlemen need I say that I will preserve as a precious possession the address with which you have honored me. Your valuable gift will long after I have passed away, show the first Judge of this District as he looked after a quarter of a century of work. I would that it could portray with equal fidelity how deeply he was touched by this generous mark of your regard: how much invigorated for fresh exertion to

try to deserve all that your kindness has associated with his name."

After the rising of the Court, the members of the profession present, which included, we believe, every practitioner in the County, together with some of the County officials and others, were sumptuously entertained at the hospitable residence of the learned Judge.

The third edition of Mr. Taylor's Consolidated Chancery Orders has just been issued from the press, and is now for sale by the publisher, Mr. Adam. It will be gladly welcomed by practitioners, and the sale will be rapid.

SELECTIONS.

THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

It betokens a healthy sign of the public mind when institutions, high or low, lay or ecclesiastical, are brought to the bar of public opinion and judged according to their merits. In a free country nothing ought to be hidden from the gaze of the people. The only claim which, in modern times, an institution has to exist, is not that it is ancient and time-honoured, not even that it is harmless, but that it is the means of doing some positive good to the nation. And in order that it may be found out whether a given institution possesses the requisite qualification to be maintained, it should be laid bare before the public. We do not mean to assert that all institutions should be wantonly and recklessly, and at all times, made the subject of criticism. That would indeed be intolerable. Without doing the least good such criticism would only create disrespect in the minds of the people for institutions which, for the sake of the freedom of a country, must perforce be supported. It would alienate the well-affected from them, and thus materially interfere with, or even mar, their usefulness. But far different would be the effect of honestly examining into the operation of these institutions from time to time, and striking a balance between the good they have done and the evil they have consciously or unconsciously committed, or permitted to take place. By this means the efficiency of a system would be most successfully found out, and if there are any evils detected in it they would be speedily put a stop to. There is another and, if possible, a greater advantage which would result from such an examination. The system, instead of being shrouded in mystery, intelligible only to those who had made it the business of their lives to study it, and offering the greatest obstacles to the approach