

conveyance of the land bought by the county council for municipal purposes, a spirit of economy sent him to a J. P. to "do the writing."

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*INDEPENDENCE OF THE BENCH.*

It was once the time-honored custom in the Presbyterian Church, on the induction of a minister, for one of the older presbyters to preach to him a sermon of exhortation, advice and warning. Something similar, though *not* customary, occurred when Mr. Justice Perdue first appeared in Court as one of the Judges of the Court of King's Bench, Manitoba. Mr. J. S. Ewart, K.C., after congratulating the learned Judge upon his appointment, took the position of exhorter. He performed his self-imposed task with a courage, plainness of speech, and clear understanding of the fitness of things which was as admirable as the address was remarkable.

If it should be said by anyone (as might naturally be said), that the words were out of place on such an occasion, it may be remarked that the observations of the learned counsel were for the judiciary at large, and had no special application to Mr. Justice Perdue, who expressed his assent to all that was said, with one exception, viz., as to Mr. Justice Killam sitting on a Commission for the revision of the statutes, in which the learned Judge was we think in the right. The occasion, moreover, was designedly chosen so that the fullest prominence might be given to the opinions expressed.

Let it not be thought that there is no need for plain speaking on these subjects. The time has, unfortunately, come when just such observations should be made, and made on occasions which lend them force. It is well also that they should come, as was the case here, from one of the leaders of the Dominion Bar—one whose character and position add weight to his words.

It is unnecessary to enlarge upon the matters touched upon in this remarkable address. It speaks for itself, and the material parts are given at the conclusion of this article for the benefit of any reader who may not have seen them in the public press.

The views now expressed by Mr. Ewart, however, are not new to our readers, as our protest in relation to the main points under discussion are already on record. We are glad that so fearless a