

## THE LATE CHIEF JUSTICE MOSS.

Our higher academies do not always receive credit for the work they accomplish in disciplining youths for the battle of life. Mr. Moss, at all events, was throughout life a visible evidence of the admirable training of old Upper Canada. It had a reputation for severity in those days, and more than one of the masters had a reputation for not spoiling the child by sparing the rod. At any rate, the future judge acquired in the halls of the college a sound basis of learning, and, what is better, systematic habits of studious industry. When he left the institution, bearing off with him the Governor-General's prize, he was the most popular, as well as the best mentally equipped pupil who ever left the highest form. His career whilst there is the best possible apology for the institution which can be offered; since not only did he, in after years, vindicate the character of its tuition, but proved, to demonstration, the value of its discipline in the formation of a vigorous, manly, and thoroughly practical habit of mind.

In 1854, Mr. Moss entered the University of Toronto, receiving a first-class scholarship in the two departments of classics and mathematics. Those who were his contemporaries there will be the first to acknowledge the abilities he possessed, and to do justice to the thorough grounding he possessed in his special departments. There was not so much competition in those days of Alma Mater, as now; still Mr. Moss had no child's play of it even then, and, fortunately for himself, was not by any means permitted to walk the course. That he triumphed in the end and won the honorable race upon which he had entered, was a credit at once to his training, his abilities, and his persevering industry. Of his career at the University we have gathered some interesting reminiscences, which however might not prove of interest to the reader. It must suffice to remark that throughout his course of four years he was not so much a rival as a friend to those who now lament his premature death, and cherish his memory as one of the most sacred and precious posses-

sions of their youth. It was the season of hope and aspiration then, and those who admired the vigorous form of their friend in those by-gone years, welcomed the cheery smile, and grasped the warm hand of their fellow-student with more than a merely academic civility, indulged in prognostications of a bright future for him and perhaps for themselves, fulfilled in his case, but nipped, alas! in the hour of fruition. In 1858, Mr. Moss graduated with unprecedented distinction, receiving no less than three gold medals, awarded in the departments of classics, mathematics and modern languages respectively. It may be said that in at least two of these he was practically unopposed. But that in no wise detracts from the conspicuous merit of the achievement. As a matter of fact, the absence of competition should, in the natural order of things, have made Mr. Moss less diligent. Examiners, however, have ways of their own which do not coincide with the ways of the perfunctory student; and when an undergraduate had enjoyed his own way freely for a year or two, they very properly put him upon his mettle. As Prof. Cherriman used to say in those days, with truly mathematical brevity, at Commencement, "Here is Mr. —, who has won honours in the department over which I preside, and all I need say is, that if he had failed to deserve them, he would not have obtained them." The results did not depend, in fact, merely upon a majority of marks, since under the standard, no man, even if he stood alone, could secure a first-class, without obtaining the necessary proportion.

By the death of Chief Justice Moss, Alma Mater has lost her most ardent and affectionate son. In the capacity of Vice-Chancellor, and member of the Senate, he was always foremost in suggesting and promoting schemes for the advancement of the University, and the extension of its sphere of usefulness. It now appears that he had it in contemplation to deliver lectures in the college on constitutional law and