

of Quebec and Montreal, till 1850, when the present Bishop of Montreal and Metropolitan was appointed. He travelled much when travelling was not so easy as at present. At the age of 74 he visited Labrador in pursuance of his duties, which is a feat that is worthy of particular mention. In 1844 he went to the Red River Settlement; and, in 1853, he went to England to meet the Bishop of Australia and confer on the subject of synodical action in the Colonial Churches, on which occasion he received the Degree of D.C.L. at Oxford. He is well and deservedly remembered by many for the active part he took in ministering to the fever stricken emigrants at Gross Isle, in 1849, where he served, taking the place of his son, (Rev. A. W. Mountain) as also during the fearful time of cholera in 1832-'34. He was the founder of Bishop's College, Lennoxville, and of the Church Society organizations, for the completion of which he had to labour long and faithfully. He spent a large portion of his income in behalf of the Church, and in relieving the distressed. When the Metropolitan See of Canada was offered to him a short time since, he respectfully declined the honor; he was advanced in years, and he would not accept the office when he could not perform the duties appertaining to it. Bishop Mountain had not the gift of oratory, in the sense of being a popular preacher; but no man of education could listen to his sermons and fail to feel that they were the production of an earnest and scholarly mind; and they always commanded respect and attention.

#### No. 5.—SIR JOHN BEVERLEY ROBINSON, BART.

We share the profound sorrow which will be felt throughout the Province, and especially throughout Upper Canada, on hearing of the death of Sir JOHN ROBINSON. A man who, occupying for more than half a century a most prominent position among us, admired for consummate ability, revered for deep judicial knowledge and unsullied integrity, loved by all those who approached him intimately, and, we may almost say, adored by those allied to him by closer and dearer ties, whose conduct, talent and position combined to give him a powerful influence over the community of which he formed a part, cannot be taken away from our midst without his removal creating a shock which must vibrate through every heart. But a few months since we chronicled his resignation of the office of Chief Justice of Upper Canada, expressing our hope that the country might still for many years enjoy the benefit of his matured judgment and deep learning as president of the Court of Appeal, the duties of which office he undertook on retiring from the more exhausting labors of his previous position. Though of ripe age, exceeding the "three score and ten," he was one whose powers, physical or mental, no other excess had exhausted save an untiring energy in the discharge of onerous duties, public and private, social and domestic; and we had deemed that Divine Providence might have allotted to him a more prolonged evening of life, radiant and beneficial to the last moment ere the shadows of night closed his career.

It has been ordered otherwise, and in little more than six months from the time of the expression of that hope we are called upon to announce that he is no more. He died on Saturday morning last, the 31st ult., at half-past eight o'clock, at his residence, Richmond street west. Troubled, more or less for many years with gout, it finally seized upon him with a degree of virulence which is beyond the power of medical skill to avert.

SIR JOHN BEVERLEY ROBINSON was born on the 26th of July, 1791. He was educated by the now venerable Bishop of Toronto, and in 1807 commenced his legal studies under Solicitor General (afterwards Mr. Justice) Boulton, to whose memory he paid an affectionate tribute on his own retirement last summer. He next studied under the auspices of Attorney General Macdonald, who was provincial aid-de-camp to Sir Isaac Brock, and was killed a few minutes after his gallant chief had fallen, at the battle of Queenston, on the 13th of October, 1812.

Sir John's first public employment was that of Clerk to the House of Assembly. He served as a Lieutenant in a company of Militia in 1812, and was present at the surrender of General Hill to Sir Isaac Brock in August of that year. He was one of the officers of the detachment which, after the Battle of Queenston, escorted a number of American prisoners to Quebec, among whom was Colonel (since better known as General) Scott, of the United States army. On his return from this service, he was, before he was actually called in due form to the bar, appointed Acting Attorney General for Upper Canada, the Solicitor General being then a prisoner of war in France. A statute, passed in 1815, made valid the calls to the bar of several gentlemen, with regard to whom owing to the war) he regular course could not be followed, and the acting Attorney General was one of these. The peace of 1814 restored Mr. Solicitor General Boulton to liberty; and on his return to Upper Canada in 1815 he was created Attorney General, and was succeeded as Solicitor General in March, 1815, by Mr. Robinson. In 1817 Mr.

Boulton was elevated to the Bench, and Mr. Robinson was again appointed, and this time permanently, to be Attorney General of Upper Canada.

He entered the House of Assembly of Upper Canada in 1821, as a member of the town of York, and was twice re-elected, continuing to be a member of that branch of the Legislature until his appointment to be Chief Justice.

In 1822 he was charged with a mission to England for the settlement of difficulties that had arisen between Upper and Lower Canada respecting the Custom duties; and on his return in the following year received the thanks of both branches of the Legislature, couched in the strongest language of approval. During his stay in England he was called to the English bar by the Honorable Society of Lincoln's Inn, and shortly after the Imperial Government offered him the valuable appointment of Chief Judge of the Mauritius. This offer, however gratifying as a recognition of his previous services, he declined, preferring to follow the career he had so successfully begun in this province. On the retirement of Chief Justice Powell in 1825, the vacant office was tendered to Mr. Robinson. He preferred, however, to continue at the bar, and he did not ascend the Bench until 1829, when he succeeded the late Sir William Campbell, and continued to be Chief Justice of Upper Canada until his resignation last year. By his appointment as Chief Justice he became, according to the practice then followed, Chairman of the Committee of the Executive Council and Speaker of the Legislative Council. He ceased to be a member of the Executive Council about the time that Sir Francis Head was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada; but remained in the Legislative Council until the Union of the Canadas, though he was absent in England on leave, on account of his health, during the last session of the Parliament of Upper Canada. The late Mr. Justice Jones, during that session, discharged the duties of the Speaker of the Upper House.

It was intimated to Sir John, after the suppression of the outbreak in 1837, that if he desired it his name would be submitted to Her Majesty, with a view to the honor of Knighthood being conferred on him; but he respectfully declined.

In November, 1850, he was appointed a Companion (civil division) of the Bath and subsequently, after a long and well appreciated course of service, he was created a Baronet of the United Kingdom by patent, dated 21st of September, 1854. Beside these distinctions, Sir John received the honorary degree of D. C. L. from the University of Oxford, and was the first Chancellor of the University of Trinity College Toronto.

In 1862, he resigned the office of Chief Justice for Upper Canada, which he had filled for some thirty-three years with equal honor to himself and advantage to his country; at the time of his retirement, there was no Chief Justice of any Court in the Queen's dominions who had served the Crown in that capacity for an equal number of years.

The statutes passed while Sir J. B. Robinson was a member of the Legislature, some of the most important of which were framed by himself, afford a ready test of his clear perception of an existing defect or evil, and of the remedy most fitted to remove it, and at the same time most suitable to the exigencies of a young and rising community. But distinguished as his reputation was before he rose to the Bench, it was there that he displayed the highest perfection of his character.

To quick appreciation of facts—to a power of most exact discrimination and a marvellous faculty of lucid arrangement and statement, he added untiring patience, unwearied industry—always increasing his own large store of legal knowledge and always applying his qualities, natural and acquired in the interests of truth and justice. No research was spared, no consideration was overlooked, which could aid in coming to a right conclusion, and even the unsuccessful suitor could not fail to recognize the earnest effort as well as the ability and integrity that had been employed in disposing of his case. Equally good reasons had the Bar to appreciate and admire him. To the lofty dignity combined with the unassuming courtesy of his conduct to them is owing much of the right-minded and agreeable tone in which the business of our Courts has been usually conducted. Prompt to repress the slightest indecorum—looking to the leaders of the bar for a fitting example to their juniors—he was kind and affable to all, and uniting firmness to the finished manner of a high-bred gentleman, he sustained the dignity of the Court in the highest degree, and inspired self-respect, and the observance of fitting decorum, as becoming the character of a learned and honourable profession.

He was a sincere and earnest Christian, not merely in the sense of a devout worshipper, but as one who felt it a duty to exert his best faculties for the support and extension of the "pure and reformed faith" of the Church to which he belonged. He took an active part in the establishment of the Church Society for the diocese of Toronto.