

THE MARITIME COURT OF ONTARIO.

stated. He has left a record as honourable to himself as it is worthy of the profession of which he was such a distinguished member. The *Law Journal* thus alludes to him :—

“The deceased nobleman was born on July 15, 1794, and was a son of Mr. Charles Thesiger, Collector of Customs at St Vincent. At an early age Mr. Frederick Thesiger entered the Royal Navy, and in the year 1807 was engaged in warlike operations before Copenhagen. After a short service at sea he turned his attentions to pursuits of a more peaceful character, and became a student at Gray's Inn ; was called to the bar in 1818, and chose the Home Circuit. In 1834 he became King's Counsel ; in 1840 he was elected member for Woodstock ; in 1844 he was made Solicitor-General, and in 1845 Attorney-General ; and in 1858 he was appointed Lord Chancellor. He also held the Great Seal a second time, in 1866, under Lord Derby ; but on Mr. Disraeli becoming Prime Minister, the Great Seal passed into the hands of Lord Cairns.

“At the bar Mr. Thesiger—or, perhaps we ought to say, Sir Frederick Thesiger—achieved a success almost without parallel. He was not quite so persuasive as Scarlett, but far more eloquent, and certainly more admired and respected. His fine presence, equal temper, pleasant manner, and excellent voice, attracted attorneys, suitors and jurymen, while his high sense of honour, courteous bearing, and real kindness of heart won the affections and esteem of the bar. Undoubtedly, he was the most popular barrister of his day, and was especially the favourite of the attorneys and solicitors of his time. In society he shone with equal brightness ; and even in his old age his jokes, sallies of humour, and anecdotes, lost nothing of their fun and point. It was the fashion to decry his ‘law,’ on the general principle, or rather on the common fallacy, that an eloquent man is never a profound lawyer. But a fair and unprejudiced study of his judgments in the House of Lords would lead an inquirer to form a different and more correct estimate of his powers. In

truth, Nature had been liberal to him ; for she had bestowed on him bodily and mental gifts of a high order, and given him those qualities, both outwardly and inwardly, which go to make up a successful barrister and able judge.

“It must of necessity be a matter of regret to see a man of this type fall from the ranks ; but when eighty-four years of life have been completed, when every honour has been won, when the love and regard of fellow-men have been secured, when sons have risen to high places in public service, the debt of nature may be paid without a pang to the man, and without sorrow to the survivors. A life of solid happiness was the lot of Lord Chelmsford. Fortunate in public and private life, with hundreds of friends and without a foe, he might look back and acknowledge, as did the great Lord Hardwicke, that he had been singularly blessed in life. In peace and honour he has passed away, but his name will live among us for years to come.”

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The formation of the Maritime Court was completed by Proclamation on the 15th of February last.

The first sitting of the Court was held on the first day of last month, by Kenneth McKenzie, Esq., the Judge of the Court. Two assessors were associated with him. His Honour alluded at some length to the circumstances attending its establishment, the object of its institution, its powers and jurisdiction, speaking as follows :

“A Court of Maritime Jurisdiction for the administration of admiralty or maritime laws upon the great lakes and other inland waters of Ontario is a new institution called into existence by the Parliament and Government of Canada, invested with special jurisdiction in connection with the navigation and trade of these inland waters.

“Great Britain, the first maritime nation in the world, has had for ages officers and tribunals to afford redress for wrongs committed on the high or open seas in connection with maritime