

THE LATE HON. SAMUEL BEALEY HARRISON.

Sydenham to move the amendments, which though only slightly modifying the original resolutions, remain on the Journals of the House as the *lex scripta* of Responsible Government in this country.

After his resignation of office in September, 1843, he removed from Kingston to Toronto, and again commenced vigorously the practice of his profession in partnership with Mr. Colley Foster, and a flourishing and increasing business was the result of his labours.

In 1844 he again entered Parliament as member for Kent. On the 4th January 1845, he was appointed Judge of the Surrogate Court for the Home District in the place of Mr. Blake, and on the 29th May 1848, he was made Judge of the District Court for the Home District on the resignation of the late Judge Burns.

He was called to the Bar of Upper Canada in Michaelmas Term, 1839, and was made a Queen's Counsel on 4th January 1845, and was elected a Bencher of the Law Society.

Amongst the numerous other public positions held by this lamented gentleman was that of one of the first appointed members of the Board of Education for Upper Canada, of which, in February, 1848, upon the death of Bishop Power, he was unanimously chosen chairman. His services in the cause of public instruction may best be expressed in a minute adopted at a meeting of the Board shortly after his decease—as follows:—

“That this Council learn with the deepest regret the decease of the Hon. Samuel Bealey Harrison, Q. C., Judge of the County and Surrogate Courts of the county of York, who, as member of Lord Sydenham's administration, and Secretary of the province, introduced and carried through the legislature, in 1841, the first general school bill for united Canada, who was a member of this council since its first organization in 1846, and its chairman during the last nineteen years, and who by his intelligence and enlarged views, and by his interest in public education, conferred great benefits upon the country and contributed largely to the efficiency of the proceedings of the Council, while by his courtesy and kindness he added much to the pleasure of its deliberations.”

Even during the time devoted to the engrossing care of his professional duties, Mr. Harrison found time to give to the profession several law works which will hand his name down for many years to come. At an early period in his career he published his well

known Digest, one of the most useful books ever written, and that not only as to the matter of it, but as to the manner of arrangement adopted. When he commenced it, the making of digests was somewhat of a new thing, and that he had the art of arrangement is evidenced by the fact that his system has been to a great extent copied in later works of the same nature. He edited a second edition in 1837, in three volumes, comprising nearly three thousand pages of closely printed matter. He also published a new edition of Woodfall's Landlord and Tenant, now in general use, largely altering, and in many places adding to and re-writing the original work. In 1835 he published, in connection with his friend Mr. Wollaston, a volume of reports of cases in the King's Bench and Bar Court during that year. In 1838, in conjunction with Mr. F. Edwards, he wrote a practical abridgment of the law of *Nisi Prius*, together with the general principles of law applicable to the civil relation of persons and the subject-matters of legal contention.

He entertained strong views as to the propriety and feasibility of a code of legal proceedings, upon a plan similar to one proposed by Crofton Uniacke. With the object of testing and explaining his ideas on the subject, he compiled in 1825 a small but compact synopsis of the law of evidence, intending eventually to bring his views more prominently before the public. We are not aware, however, that it ever went further than this.

In later days, in the western suburbs of the City of Toronto, he employed his leisure time in the care and management of one of the best kept and most complete little gardens in this country. A walk through the green-houses and grounds with their pleasant proprietor was something to be remembered.

As a judge he was respected by all—the profession having great confidence in his ability and impartiality and the knowledge which he possessed of the first principles of law, and the public placing unlimited reliance on his strong common sense, keen perception of character and motives, and his intense hatred of anything approaching to meanness or injustice.

These attributes made him eminently successful in his sphere as Judge of Division Courts. He had the happy way of satisfying in a great measure, both parties, or at least of convincing their better judgment that his