

and frank and truth-expressing face; in his speech there was no hesitation; and his utterance, although rapid, was clear and distinct. In these qualities, and in his rapid grasp of facts, he had no superior at the Ontario bar. Combined with them, but in less perfect degree, he possessed a good memory, a large and comprehensive knowledge of the law, and an instinctive astuteness in his methods of argument.

His very frankness of disposition, however, and his impetuosity sometimes prevented his discovery of some less apparent but valuable point. He lacked the detective suspicion of honest-looking facts, which, with some other counsel is so fruitful of success. His attacks were as open as his nature was honest. He always attacked directly in front, and seldom prepared pit-falls or torpedoes for his opponents. With his mind set upon the main issue he drove straight at it, and neglected the aid or shelter of irregularities by the way. But his attack was always strong and vigorous, and frequently carried the day against heavy odds and many cunning devices and ambuscades carefully set for his humiliation.

Mr. Bethune was a general favorite, and was on good terms with himself and everybody else; always buoyant and hearty; always cheerful and sure to win—if not here, in the Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court, the Privy Counsel, wherever it should be necessary to go for the establishment of his opinion. His clients and the junior bar, from whence he received his greatest employment, held him in the very highest estimation, and reposed in him the completest confidence,—a confidence to which his numerous successes most justly entitled him. His removal will leave a place at the bar that no other can fill, and a blank in the hearts of his many friends who have been drawn towards him through many years of friendship by his genial, generous, and manly bearing and character.