

undertake, as he did, the largest equity practice in Upper Canada. His partnerships were numerous. After the dissolution of the firm of Mowat & Vankoughnet, he formed a partnership under the style of Mowat, Ewart & Helliwell, with Mr. John Ewart and Mr. John Helliwell. Next, we find him as head of the firm of Mowat, Roaf & Davis. For a time after the dissolution of this firm, he practised alone, and then entered into partnership with Mr. James Maclellan. His business followed him from firm to firm, showing that it was to Sir Oliver that the business came and not to the firm. Many of the cases he argued, reported in Grant's reports are to-day living authorities on topics of Equity-jurisprudence. In 1856, he put on silk as Queen's Counsel, and in the following year made his first essay in politics, contesting South Ontario. Sir Oliver was elected, and took his seat in 1858. Until his elevation to the Bench, in 1864, he engaged actively in politics, but never neglected his practice. He was Provincial Secretary in the four-day Brown-Dorion cabinet which preceded the famous double shuffle. In 1863, he was Postmaster-General in the Sand-

field Macdonald-Dorion Administration, and still held this portfolio when, upon Vice-Chancellor Esten's death, he became Vice-Chancellor.

For eight years Sir Oliver was Vice-Chancellor. His appointment was grateful, both to the public and the bar. As a judge Sir Oliver's notable characteristic was his fairmindedness. His reported decisions are clear and logical, and have always been held of high authority in our courts. The education of a lawyer is not favorable to breadth of view, but with Sir Oliver, his natural fairmindedness saved him from narrowness. He was an ideal Equity Judge—learned in the jurisprudence, skilled in its technique, familiar with precedent, but withal master of his reason. He might not always be able, as judge, to deny a decree to a dishonest suitor, but he was a difficult judge to apply to under such circumstances. He resigned the bench to re-enter public life in 1872, with the fame of an upright judge. Since then Sir Oliver's career as law reformer and as administrator of a great province is known to all. He has left his mark upon our institutions.