

## DEATH OF MR. JUSTICE JOHN WILSON—APPOINTMENT OF MR. GALT—NEW LAW BOOKS.

recollection of the interest he took in them and their progress. He who was willing to learn had in Mr. Wilson a competent guide and a warm hearted friend. Indeed, Mr. Wilson was prone to help and encourage young men, and his junior brethren were often indebted to him for valuable aid. Many a young man, not in the ranks of his profession, he assisted in a substantial manner, though he shunned all publicity in these and a thousand other generous deeds."

In politics he was a Reformer, and received his appointment as judge from that party. He was twice elected to the Assembly for the city of London, and once for the St. Clair division in the Legislative Council.

In 1856 he was made a Queen's Counsel at the same time as his townsman Mr. Becher. In the vacation after Easter Term, he was appointed to the judgeship rendered vacant by the changes consequent on the retirement of Chief Justice McLean from the Queen's Bench, Mr. Wilson taking the seat occupied in the preceding term by Mr. Morrison.

A powerful advocate everywhere, before the juries in that part of Canada where he was best known, he was without an equal. His success in this respect was largely increased by his personal popularity. He had a generous, honest, manly heart, ever ready to assist the needy, and at the same time the champion of those he considered oppressed. Above all things he loved fair play, and anything in the shape of meanness, oppression or rascality, he abhorred; few who knew him will not have noticed, whether in private life, at the Bar, or on the Bench, these prominent features of his character.

The most successful advocates do not necessarily make the best judges. The cast of mind so essential in the one has a tendency to prevent eminence in the other. This is so obvious and has been so often exemplified that it has become common to prophesy that a good jury lawyer will be a failure when placed on the Bench. In some of the attributes common to both Mr. Wilson excelled, though it cannot be said that in the latter position he was as great a success as in the former. Though not as a lawyer as deeply read, or as careful of, or well versed in case law as some of his brethren on the bench he had, to a remarkable extent, a shrewd strong common sense and intuitive perception of right and wrong, which seemed to steer him

clear of the rocks that would have shipwrecked the reputation of even a more learned man, not possessed of the attributes we have attempted to describe. As might be expected, these characteristics combined with a ready wit, much decision of character, an intimate knowledge of human nature, and a clear insight into the motives of action, made him particularly useful as a *Nisi Prius* judge. As a Chamber judge on the other hand, though no complaints were ever heard that his decisions were not an equitable adjustment of the rights of parties, it has been said by some that occasionally difficulties arose from want of a more strict adherence to those rules of practice which, after all, are so necessary to keep the machinery of justice in harmonious working order.

In the West, where Mr. Wilson was best known, he was most liked, and as his popularity was based on respect for his good qualities, it was lasting, and followed him from the neighbourhood where he had lived so long to the more extended sphere of his labours on the Bench.

## THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. GALT.

The vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Justice John Wilson, has been filled by the appointment of Mr. Thomas Galt, Q. C.

We congratulate the learned counsel upon his promotion to a position which has always been, so far as the position itself is concerned, (and long may it so continue), an object of laudable ambition to the bar of Ontario. A sound lawyer, a man of unswerving integrity and stainless honor, with every instinct that of a gentleman, his appointment will be acceptable to the profession, nor will the public have reason to regret it.

## NEW LAW BOOKS.

There are two Law Books just announced by Canadian authors which the profession will be glad to see.

The first is the new and long wanted edition of Harrison's Common Law Procedure Act. The first part of this invaluable book of practice has been published and is now ready for delivery. The remaining parts will be got out as speedily as possible, consistent with a thorough verification of the authorities cited.

It will be a complete compendium of practice, including as well the Common Law Procedure