

The firm of Patterson & Harrison was afterwards augmented by adding to it Mr. Hodgins, the present Master of the Supreme Court of Judicature for Ontario, and John Bain, Q.C. Mr. Moss, afterwards Chief Justice Moss, was at one time a partner of Mr. Harrison.

In 1859 Mr. Harrison was employed by the Crown to prosecute in the celebrated case of *The Queen v. Mercer*. It arose out of an agreement entered into between Sheriff Rapelje of the County of Norfolk and Lawrence William Mercer, by which the former agreed to surrender his office, on doing which he was to receive from Mr. Mercer £500, and an annuity of £300 a year. This transaction was no doubt based on the assumption that Mercer would, on the resignation of Rapelje, get the appointment of Sheriff of the County. An information was filed by the Attorney-General against Mercer, for a misdemeanor, and as being a transaction involving the sale of an office, and contrary to the provisions of the English Statute 5 & 6 Edward VI., extended to Upper Canada by 49 George III. cap. 126. It was held by the Court of Queen's Bench, that the transaction was not only illegal under the Statute, but at Common Law, and that the ignorance of the Government as to the illegal agreement was immaterial. The Crown obtained judgment, and Mr. Mercer lost his office. The case will be found reported in 17 U. C. Q. B. Rep. 602.

Mr. Harrison was for several years editor of the *Upper Canada Law Journal*, and frequently contributed editorial articles which were well received. During his partnership with Mr. Patterson his business much increased. His early connection with the Law Department of the Government had secured him the confidence of Mr. John A. Macdonald, who was of great assistance to him in his profession. Through him his firm received all the Upper Canada revenue business of the Government.

About this time there had been a great deal of smuggling and infringement on the Customs laws. A great many suits had to be brought for penalties and forfeitures.