

In the march of fifty years, young law students became old lawyers. Counsel in stuff robes behind the bar became counsel in silk robes before the bar; and then ascending step by step in the path of fame, many of them presided with dignity in the Court, where they had pleaded with eloquence. Generations of lawyers, generations of counsel, generations of judges rose from honor to honor until the measure of their service being full, they were no longer spoken of in the present but in the past tense, and the place which once knew their persons remembered only the wit that sparkled in their speech, or the learning which was associated with their names.

But amidst change and succession one person in that Court remained almost unchangeable. For fifty years the courtly Prothonotary, in his robes of office, was, at the accustomed periods, seen in his accustomed place, mindful alike of the duty to be done and of the manner of doing it. Thus he appeared to possess perennial properties; for in a community where all else was changing, he remained almost unchangeable; the graceful representative of two generations; an object of personal admiration and an example of official integrity.

Samuel Wentworth Monk was remotely, as well as immediately, descended from progenitors of mark and consideration in England and America. His early ancestors resided in Devonshire, the County where the great Duke of Albemarle was born, and where other members of the Monk family had lived. The subject of our sketch was born at Windsor, Nova Scotia, on the 3rd May, 1792. He was the third son of Major Monk, a gallant royalist, who had followed without faltering the fortunes of his flag. On the establishment of the independence of the United States, the Major settled, with his wife, Elizabeth Gould Wentworth, in the more hospitable though less attractive portion of America; where he could, without challenge, caress his cherished opinions, and reverently pray for the Sovereign in whose service he had fought, and live under the flag in whose honor he had been willing to die.