

both in Great Britain and Canada, who valued the new senator as a warm personal friend, or who respected him for his many public services. In 1887 he was appointed chairman of the Committee upon Standing Orders and Private Bills, and the next year brought before the House the necessity of some amendment of the law of divorce, resulting in changes, and the adoption of a new procedure, which, under his wise supervision have proved most beneficial and now governs. Here we may interject the observation that it would be well for the country if those in power, to whatever party they may belong, were more able to free themselves from the trammels of party politics and give to the country in the Senate of Canada the services of men of independent views, not hampered or prejudiced by the bias of political partisanship. It is of such men that the Upper House should be largely composed, and the presence of Mr. Gowan in that body is a testimony to the propriety and benefit of such a course.

For thirteen sessions successively he was chairman of the Divorce tribunal in the Senate—thus, with previous service on the bench, making the unique record of fifty-five years of judicial work.

In 1870 Mr. Gowan was admitted to King's Inn and called to the bar of Ireland. In 1893, as a tribute to his public services, he received the distinction of being made a companion of "The Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George."

Though the greater part of his life was given to the law, and his later years to the service of the public in the Senate of Canada, there were other matters in which he took a hearty interest. In this connection we may quote from an article which appeared in the *Toronto Globe* on the occasion of his last birthday:—

"The senator's career promises to be as extended as it has been useful. The date on which Senator Gowan was appointed a judge, brings us back to the period when Ontario was in the formative state. From 1843 to 1883 is a notable stretch of time for the exercise of judicial functions, and the changes which Judge Gowan saw and helped to bring about were radical and far reaching. In the young communities of those days, it was imperative that the educated and public-spirited should spare time for the duties of citizenship outside of their special calling. Judge Gowan accordingly, besides his special services as judge, as a codifier of the laws, and as a member of judicial commissions, acted on