

SIR MATTHEW CAMERON.

SIR MATTHEW CAMERON.

It is but a few short weeks ago since we had the pleasant office of congratulating Sir Matthew Cameron on the well-merited honour of knighthood which had been recently conferred on him, and now it is our melancholy duty to record his untimely death, whereby the Bench of this Province is robbed of one of its most conspicuous ornaments, and the profession at large has to mourn the loss of one of whom it had every reason to be proud.

Sir Matthew Cameron, as his name implies, was of Scotch descent. His father was Mr. John McAlpine Cameron, a gentleman who held in his day the offices of Postmaster at Dundas, the Deputy Clerkship of the Crown for the Gore District, subsequently a clerkship to the committee of the Parliament of Upper Canada, and finally an important post in the Canada Company's service. He died in Toronto in 1866 at the good old age of seventy-nine. Sir Matthew's mother was an Englishwoman, a native of Northumberland, Nancy Foy by name. Sir Matthew was born on 2nd October, 1822, and was the youngest child of his parents, and the only one of them born in Canada. He was named "Matthew Crooks," after an uncle of the late Hon. Adam Crooks. He received his education at a private school kept by a Mr. Randall, in Hamilton, and also at the Home District School, in Toronto, and in 1838 entered Upper Canada College, where he continued until 1840. In this year he met with an unfortunate accident at the island in front of the city of Toronto, while out shooting with two companions, one of whom accidentally shot him in the leg, shattering his ankle. The result was, the wounded limb had to be amputated, and he was doomed to crutches for the rest of

his life. Through some defect in the surgical treatment he received he had to endure not only the loss of the leg, but the wound remained a continual source of pain and trouble to him until his dying day.

On his recovery from this accident he entered upon the study of the law in the office of Messrs. Campbell & Boulton, and in Hilary Term, 1849, he was called to the Bar of this Province. He commenced practice first as a partner of the late William Henry Boulton, his former master. Subsequently on Mr. Boulton retiring from practice he formed a partnership with the Hon. William Cayley, an English barrister, under the name of Cayley & Cameron. In 1859 Dr. McMichael became a member of the firm. On Mr. Cayley's retirement Mr. Cameron became the senior partner, and continued so until his elevation to the Bench as a *puisne* Judge of the Court of Queen's Bench, in 1878. He was appointed one of Her Majesty's Counsel in 1863, and was elected a Bencher in April, 1871.

While at the Bar he acquired a Provincial reputation as a forensic orator of the first class, and his services were eagerly sought in all parts of the Province. He was tall and slightly built, and of commanding presence, and though not gifted with a very musical voice, his force and keenness of invective, coupled with a thorough mastery of the law, made him very soon a formidable opponent, and in the early days of his career he found in the late Henry Eccles, John Hilyard Cameron, P. M. Vankoughnet and the present Chief Justice of Ontario, antagonists worthy of his utmost skill. Notwithstanding the infirmity he laboured under, owing to the accident to which we have referred, he was a most indomitable worker, and no client ever found his interests neglected in his hands. All that skill and learning and industry and eloquence could do, consistently with honour and