

MR. WICKSTEED, Q.C.—CORRESPONDENCE.

ments to navigation were the three small *batteaux* locks, constructed, shortly after the conquest, to escape to some degree, the 'Cascades' 'Cedars' and 'Coteau' Rapids. The population of the two Provinces scarcely reached four hundred thousand—of which under one-third was in Western Canada. At this date the historian traces the introduction of luxury, and the political theorist bewails the commencement of the lines of party; whereas on the other hand, the mind educated to politics can recognize no other means of carrying on a Government, as the teachings of the last two centuries since the Revolution of 1688 establish. The theorist sees the evils of the system, many of which are undeniable. He fails to understand the restraints which the system exacts, and that it is only by the spirit of compromise that Government can be practically carried on. At this date Montreal had some eight thousand inhabitants. Toronto was little more than a large self-asserting village. Manufacturers were few. There was little enterprise. Every interest was in its infancy. The whole development of the country lay in the future. Mr. Wicksteed has lived to see Canada extend across the Continent. The disunited provinces, which in those days knew little of each other but by name, formed into a concrete unity. During the whole of this fifty-eight years, Mr. Wicksteed has advanced with the movement; and in his happy cosmopolitanism, he is as much at home in our present condition as when he translated in the House of Assembly at Quebec in the days of Lord Dalhousie, or aided Mr. Ogden in drawing up Ordinances for the Special Council.

"No man ever retired from public life more respected and honoured. Faithful to every Administration while in power, he fulfilled his obligations, without servility and with consistent integrity. No betrayed confidence was ever traced to his faithlessness. The feeling of respect was universal with all brought in contact with him. His career is one to be held forth for our youth to follow. He possesses a reputation so untarnished, so high, so good, that he will be long remembered, especially by the older members. Whatever the abilities and experience of Dr. Wilson—and we have no desire in any way to throw doubt upon them, he has to succeed in his path of difficult duty to a series of traditions which will exact his greatest efforts.

"Mr. Wicksteed's thorough training, his great ability, his suavity of manner, his unfaltering industry, his reliability never at fault in his fifty-eight years of professional life, upwards of half a century of which was passed in the Legislature, will long preserve his memory in the corridors, where his form will no longer have official recognition; while his return to private life must command the good wishes of all who know him, either by reputation or who have the good fortune to enjoy his friendship."

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CORRESPONDENCE.

FLORENTINE JUSTICE.

To the Editor of the LAW JOURNAL:

Tennyson intimates in "Locksley Hall" that the world has not improved during the last fifty years, and very likely the same author would take the view that there has been no improvement during the last four hundred years. I have lately been perusing the autobiography of Benvenuto Cellini, a worthy Florentine artist who lived about three hundred and fifty years ago, and who seems to have handled the sword as effectively as the chisel.

It seems this worthy was induced to go to France during the reign of Francis I. to execute some marvellous works of art. The king gave him a palace in Paris, with grounds attached, for the purpose of enabling him to live in a becoming state, and at the same time to construct certain statues which were then being made for the adornment of the king's palace at Versailles. It would also seem that some trespassers had squatted on Benvenuto Cellini's premises, and so far as we can judge from his story, in a not very creditable manner. He, however, did not bring ejectment, nor did he avail himself of any legal process to be rid of the intruder, but quickly and quietly expelled him by main force from his premises, and this procedure he carried out in an effective manner, on at least two occasions.

It is perhaps not amiss to permit the old worthy to describe in his own language the calamities that befell him owing to his somewhat rash conduct, and at the same time the very peculiar method he took to punish those who, as he says, perjured themselves in order to maintain a successful action against him. I quote his language, with a few explanatory notes of my own.

"Just at this juncture, the second person whom I had driven out of the precincts of my castle, had commenced a lawsuit against me at Paris, affirming that I had robbed him of several of his effects at the time that I dislodged him.

"This suit occasioned me a great deal of trouble, and took up so much of my time, that I was frequently on the point of forming a desperate resolution to quit the kingdom. It is customary in France to make the most of a suit which they commence with a foreigner, or with any other person who is not used to law transactions; as soon as they have any advantage in the process, they find means to sell it to certain persons who make a trade of buying lawsuits. There is another villanous practice which is general with the Normans, I mean that of bearing false witness; so that those who purchase the suit immediately in-