

## THE LATE HON. SAMUEL BEALEY HARRISON.

## DIARY FOR AUGUST.

1. Thurs. *Lammas.*  
 4. SUN... 7th Sunday after Trinity.  
 11. SUN... 8th Sunday after Trinity.  
 14. Wed... Last day for service for County Court. Last day for County Clerk to certify county rates to municipalities in counties  
 18. SUN... 9th Sunday after Trinity.  
 21. Wed... Long Vacation ends.  
 24. Sat... St. Bartholomew. Declare for County Court.  
 25. SUN... 10th Sunday after Trinity.  
 28. Wed... Appeals from Chancery Chambers.

## THE

## Upper Canada Law Journal.

AUGUST, 1867.

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It is with feelings of extreme regret that we record the death, after a comparatively short illness, of the Hon. Samuel Bealey Harrison, Judge of the County Court of the County of York, at his residence in Toronto, on the 23rd of July last, in the sixty-sixth year of his age.

This event which inflicts so severe a loss not only upon his immediate relatives and friends, but also on the whole community, calls for more than a passing notice; and though his name is so well known, and his sterling worth so well appreciated, that we can do nothing to add to his reputation or increase the love and respect of all who knew him, we may yet collect some few particulars of a life replete with the gifts that make a man useful in his generation, and blessed with that kindly nature which could not help but win the love of those who might even try to be his enemies.

He was the eldest son of John Harrison, Esq., of Foxley Grove, in Berkshire, and was born in Manchester on the 4th March, 1802. At the age of seventeen, he was admitted to the Honorable Society of the Middle Temple, and after a period of diligent study he commenced his professional career as a special pleader. In this branch he speedily acquired a large and remunerative business which he conducted with much ability for several years. During this time, he had as his students, a number of young men many of whom have since risen to the highest honors in their profession. Amongst the best known of these were, we believe, Lord Chief Justice Cockburn, and the late Mr

Samuel Warren. The late Mr. Esten, one of the Vice-Chancellors of Upper Canada, was also for a short time one of his pupils.

Mr. Harrison subsequently gave up this business to his brother Richard, and being on the 15th June, 1832, called to the bar, he left the lucrative but somewhat monotonous chambers of a special pleader for the more precarious, but more brilliant prospects of the bar. Fortune here also smiled upon him, and his many friends prophesied that he was on the straight road to high professional distinction.

He went the Home Circuit, where his brethren were Montague Chambers, Shee, Channell, Russell Gurney, Gaselee, Dowling, and others.

Ill health and a desire for change, however, induced him, after a few years, to come to this country and try his fortune as a colonist. This he did in the year 1837, and settled at Brontë, in the County of Halton, where he went into milling and farming with his accustomed energy. But he was not long allowed the questionable pleasures or profits of this retirement, for he was most unexpectedly to himself, in June 1839, requested by Sir George Arthur, then Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, to act as his private secretary. He filled this office until Mr. Charles Poulett Thompson, afterwards Lord Sydenham, who entertained a high opinion of his capacity, appointed him Provincial Secretary on the 10th February 1841, at the time of the union of the two Canadas, and three days afterwards he was made a member of the Executive Council.

Mr. Harrison was elected member for Kingston in the first Parliament of United Canada, on 1st July 1841, in the room of Mr. Manahan, who resigned the seat and was made collector of customs at Toronto. He continued in office until his resignation on 30th September 1843, on the question of the removal of the seat of government from Kingston to Montreal.

In politics Mr. Harrison was always a reformer, but not extreme in his views, which he expressed with much clearness and force, though without attempt at oratorical display, whilst his strong common sense, clear head and business habits rendered his services of great value to the government. When Mr. Baldwin, in September 1841, introduced his celebrated resolutions as on Responsible Government, Mr. Harrison was selected by Lord