

legislator was marked by a strenuous advocacy of many measures which are generally supposed to be on the line of the traditional policy of the party to which he was politically opposed. But however this may be, Mr. Meredith was a brilliant example to those who may come after him of intelligent criticism of all measures introduced, and, though occupying a trying position, he leaves the record of a politician who has left public life with clean hands and an unblemished reputation, and enjoying the confidence and respect of both friends and foes.

In 1871 he was elected Benchman of the Law Society. It will be regretted by many that in this capacity, and as a public man, he advocated that which is bad enough as it is, but which, if carried further, will work a serious injury to the judiciary, and be hurtful to the public interests. We refer to the stand he took in connection with the decentralization of the courts. The opinion we have frequently expressed on this subject is concurred in by the great mass of the profession, and, we believe, by the whole of the judiciary of Ontario. We fail to understand how any one who has taken an intelligent view of the whole situation, and the results of decentralization in the Province of Quebec, and the result of centralization in Ontario and the mother country, could have fallen into the error of which Mr. Meredith was one of the most powerful exponents.

This, however, is now a matter of history, and we gladly change the subject, and are, with the rest of his brethren at the Bar, well pleased to know that one so well fitted for the position has been raised to the Bench. Mr. Meredith is now in his right place. His duties will be most congenial to him, for his mind is eminently a judicial one. It needs no prophet to say that he will make an excellent judge. He is a thorough lawyer, having an exceptional experience in all the legislation connected with this Province. He is painstaking and conscientious, whilst in manner he is both dignified and courteous, and his character, public and private, is irreproachable. We congratulate the country on the new Chief Justice of the Common Pleas.