

ciate. A year later a Commission of three—Justice Burns, Vice Chancellor Spragge and Bro. Judge Gowan was appointed to make rules and orders under the Act for assimilating the Canadian Law of Probate to that of England. About this time Sir James Macaulay was entrusted with the consolidation of the Statutes from 1792 to 1858, but it proved too great a task for one man, and Bro. Judge Gowan was appointed to assist him. Bro. Gowan received many hearty encomiums for the skill displayed by him in condensing 40 volumes of Statutes into two volumes. In 1871 the Sandfield-Macdonald Government issued a Commission to enquire into the constitution and jurisdiction of the several Courts of law and equity in Ontario, with Sir Adam Wilson (also a member of St. Andrew's Lodge) as Chairman. After confederation, when to make the Criminal law uniform throughout the Dominion, it became necessary to consolidate the different Statutes in force, Bro. Judge Gowan was one of the Commissioners, of three, appointed to carry out the work, and then in 1876, when the Statute law of Ontario was to be consolidated Attorney-General Mowat sought the assistance of Bro. Judge Gowan. A gold medal to commemorate the event was presented to Bro. Gowan. In the settlement of the difference between the contractors and the Federal Government, in respect to the Parliament Buildings at Ottawa, Bro. Gowan acted as one of Arbitrators; he was also one of the Commissioners appointed by the Macdonald Government to investigate the "Pacific Scandal" in 1872. In October, 1883, Bro. Gowan retired from the Bench, on which occasion he was presented with several addresses accompanied with valuable mementoes. While on a visit to Ireland, in the year, 1883 he received an honorary call to the Irish bar at the Sitting of the Court of Chancery. In 1884 he was made a Queen's Counsel, an honor he could not accept before, on account of his occupancy of the Bench.

Bro. Gowan in 1885 received Her Majesty's writ of summons to the Senate of Canada, bearing date 29th January; was introduced and took his seat in the Upper House, 3rd February, 1885. On this occasion a number of congratulatory addresses were presented to him by the Bar, and by the County Council and other public bodies; and congratulatory communications sent him from distinguished men in Great Britain and Canada, as the Marquis of Dufferin, Sir Robert Herbert, Sir John Rose, Bart., Mr. Hartpole Lecky, Sir Willam B. Richards, Sir Mathew Cameron, Sir Oliver Mowat, Dr. Goldwin Smith, and many others. While in the Senate he has taken an active part in the public affairs of the country. He submitted an important measure of reform regulating procedure in Parliamentary Divorce. He also secured in the Tudor-Hart case the recognition and affirmation by Parliament of an important principle—the equal responsibility of man and woman, and their equal right to divorce on proof of adultery. Bro. Gowan acted for many years chairman of a select committee of the Senate, to report upon all Bills of Divorce before Parliament. In 1893 Bro. Senator Gowan was appointed by the Queen a Companion of "the most distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George." In 1884 he was given the honorary degree of LL.D. by Queen's University. Bro. Senator Gowan has always taken a lively interest in religious matters and he is a strict adherent of the Church of England. It might be mentioned also that in 1837 he joined the Loyalist at the City Hall, Toronto, on the breaking out of the Rebellion, and served as a volunteer in the fight with rebels at Gallows Hill. He was afterwards commissioned as an ensign and lieutenant in the Fourth North York militia. From the above sketch of the life of Bro. Gowan it can be seen that he has held many prominent positions in Canada as a Jurist, Educationist, Journalist and Legislator, as well as being a soldier.