

for he has appointed men of whom he knew little except by reputation. We cannot say that he has been controlled solely by a respect for old age, for he has appointed young as well as old men. But we do say that these bastard elements more or less enter into the list of his appointments, and that some men appointed have no claim to the appointment, beyond one or other of these bastard titles.

We know how difficult it is under our present form of government for men in power to be governed solely by a sense of right and merit. Expediency too often usurps the place of right. Both in England and in Canada expediency is doing much to lower the standard of the bar, if not of the bench. The fault is, perhaps, not so much that of the Chancellor, in England, or Attorney-General, in Canada, for the time being, as of the system of government which renders it necessary for these officers to make sacrifices. The result, however, is none the less pernicious—none the less deplorable—none the less to be deplored.

THE LATE MR. JUSTICE CONNER.

The *Canada Gazette*, under date 31st January last, announced that His Excellency the Governor-General had been pleased to appoint Skeffington Connor, LL.D., to be a Puisne Judge of Her Majesty's Court of Queen's Bench for Upper Canada, in the room and stead of the Hon. Robert Easton Buras, then lately deceased.

The announcement was well received by the many well-wishers of the learned gentleman who had thus been honored. Bright hopes were entertained for his future.

He took his seat on the bench during Hilary Term last. He presided at the assizes for the County of the City of Toronto, which opened on the 16th March last. He then opened the assizes for the United Counties of York and Peel, on the 13th April last; and on the 29th April last, during the sitting of the assizes, after a few days' indisposition, breathed his last.

Those who were intimately acquainted with him were aware that ever since his elevation to the bench, his health was precarious; but none suspected that the day of his death was so near at hand. Owing to his recent elevation to the bench, he did not appear to advantage as a Judge. It requires time to make a Judge of a barrister, however able; and Dr. Connor, ere he had made himself at home in his new position, was hurried off to eternity—a warning to all of the uncertainty of life, and of the folly of setting hopes or affections on things terrestrial.

He was not an old man at the time of his death. He was born in Dublin, in 1810; entered Trinity College in 1824, and graduated at the same institution in 1830. In 1830, he married Eliza Humo, the sister of Mrs. Chancellor Blake, and in 1832 came to Canada. For two years he

lived in Orillia. Tired of country life, he returned to Ireland, resided a short time on the continent, and in 1838 was called to the Irish bar. In 1842, having returned to Canada, he was called to the Upper Canadian bar, and entered into partnership, in the practice of the law, with his brother-in-law, Mr. Blake, and the present Mr. Justice Morrison. In 1849, he revisited Ireland, and had conferred upon him by his alma mater the degree of LL.D. In 1850, upon his return to Canada, he was elected a bencher of the Law Society, and was appointed a Queen's Counsel. In 1856, he was elected a representative in the Legislative Assembly for South Oxford, and thenceforward devoted so much of his time to politics, that he to a great extent lost his practice. In 1858, he was appointed Solicitor-General for Upper Canada, which office he held only for a few days, owing to the defeat of the government of which he was a member.

Dr. Conner in manner was courteous, though at times bitter. He was an able advocate, and, had he attended to his profession, to the exclusion of politics, might in the course of time have earned for himself a comfortable competence. Of late years his temper was not improved, owing to the progress of disease of some kind, to which he ultimately succumbed.

We feel a delicacy in pronouncing an opinion upon his career as a judge, owing to the fact that it was so short, and owing to the fact that he is no longer living; but if the truth must be told, we have no hesitation in saying his friends were disappointed. Had it pleased Providence longer to spare his life, he would probably have improved, and become an able Judge.

In private life he was much esteemed. He was generous to a fault, and hospitable to all with whom he was acquainted. His death, so soon after his elevation to the bench, has cast a gloom over a large circle of friends, whose fond hopes have thus been destroyed.

MR. HALLOWELL'S DIGEST OF ACTS.

We published in the last number of the *Law Journal* a Digest of acts passed during the years 1860, 1861, and 1862, which repeal, amend, vary or affect the Consolidated Statutes of *Upper Canada*. We publish in this number a continuation of the Digest, which embraces acts passed during the same years affecting the Consolidated Statutes of *Canada*. The compiler is Mr. J. S. Hallowell, student-at-law, who has already made himself favourably known to our readers through the columns of the *Law Journal*. So far as we have been able to judge, we can say the compilation is an accurate one, and all must admit it is a useful one. It is difficult to keep up with the work of legislation in Canada. The amending, altering, repealing,