

SAMUEL WENTWORTH MONK, ESQ.,

LATE PROTHONOTARY OF THE COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH, MONTREAL.

"The purest treasure mortal times afford
Is spotless reputation; that away,
Men are but gilded loam or painted clay."

WERE any one inclined to write a history of "The Civil Procedure" in the District of Montreal for the last half century, he could scarcely find a more appropriate text than the gentleman whose likeness looks at us from the opposite page; for his career as Prothonotary of the Court of Queen's Bench began with his appointment to that office in 1815, and ended with his death, in 1865.

An official life of exact duty and continuous service is not generally seamed with excitement. Nor is it desirable that it should be so; for even work is best performed by even minds. Lives of pure purpose and single aim are necessarily ruled by high principle. Time pays homage to such lives. He makes his visits gently, and seems to hold his hand lest he should too roughly touch "locks once comely in a virgin's sight," or mark with unwelcome tracery a brow whereon care had written no wrinkles. It is very charming to meet with well-preserved official people, of the old polished type, who flourished when time was younger. The specimens are yearly becoming scarce. They are passing rapidly from the region of observation to the realms of memory. Some fossilized forms remain to remind us, even amidst the stillness and decay of nature, of the old manners which we are losing, and of the old fashions which are gradually dying out.