

HON. WILLIAM HENRY DRAPER, C.B.

George White, R.N., who survives him. At this time he lived some seven miles from his office, but he always walked there and back. Those that know this will not so much wonder at the regularity with which, in storm or sunshine, up to the time of his last illness, he walked every Sunday to and from St. James Cathedral, where he was a constant worshipper.

After he was called to the Bar he came to Toronto, and took charge of the business of Sir John B. Robinson, then Attorney-General, and at his suggestion, he having been much struck with the manner Mr. Draper had prepared for trial an intricate case on real property law.

Mr. Draper was called to the Bar 16th June, 1828, at the same term as Peter Rapelje and David Lockwood Fairfield, and the term previous to the calling of Henry Sherwood, Judge Hagerman, Judge Sullivan and Chancellor Spragge, and soon took a foremost place amongst the many eminent men of that day. On 18th November, 1829, he was appointed Reporter to the Court of Queen's Bench, which office he held until he became Solicitor-General. In 1842 he was given his silk in conjunction with Henry John Boulton, Robert Baldwin, Henry Sherwood, and James E. Small.

The story of Mr. Draper's life from the time that he went to Parliament until he was appointed to the Bench is the history of Canada; and we do not propose to speak at any length of this most eventful period of our country's history. Suffice it to say that early in 1836 he was elected to the Legislative Assembly as member for Toronto, and in December he was called to the Executive Council without a portfolio. On the 23rd March, 1837, he became Solicitor-General, which position he held until the Union of the Provinces, under Lord Sydenham. On the 13th February, 1841, he became the first Attorney-General and Premier of United Canada, Robert Baldwin being

Solicitor-General. On 10th April, 1843, he was made a Legislative Councillor; but at the request of his friend, Sir Charles Metcalfe, the then Governor-General, whom he much esteemed and supported manfully, he resigned his seat in the Upper House and again became Attorney-General, sitting in the Legislative Assembly as member for London. On 12th June, 1847, he was appointed a Puisne Judge of the Court of Queen's Bench, then composed of five judges, in the place of Mr. Justice Hagerman, deceased. How faithfully he served the successive Governors of the Province, and how eloquently he upheld and fought for what was then a falling cause, turning defeats into apparent victories by his marvellous persuasiveness and skill as a debater, and how gladly he left the turbid sea of politics for a profession that he loved—are all recorded in the pages of history. He did not escape, as of course he could not, the sneers and jealousy of pretended friends nor the abuse of malignant partizan opponents at a time when political parties were at daggers drawn, when old things were passing away, and when all things were becoming new. Bookmakers even of the present day unfamiliar with the true position of matters which transpired but thirty years ago, may still reproduce the silly sneer or the worn out story of an hour. But the time will come when full justice will be done to the memory of the most subtle legal intellect, the most able lawyer, the most accomplished speaker, and one of the most courteous gentlemen that Canada has as yet seen—one also whose name has not in a long life-time been tarnished by any dishonourable act; and when his faults, for faults of course he had, will be weighed with a true balance, and he will be judged in relation to the times wherein he lived and the circumstances surrounding a most trying political situation.

Mr. Draper's talents as an advocate