

official fees must be paid. This is a heavy and unjustifiable tax first on the solicitors and then on the people who are so unfortunate as to fall into litigation.¹

The site on which the Hall rests, being six acres, was purchased from Hon. John B. Robinson, afterwards Chief Justice, for £1,000 early in 1828. In June of that year convocation directed plans to be obtained for a structure to cost not more than £3,000, and this was the origin of the first building soon afterwards erected under direction of Dr. W. W. Baldwin as Treasurer.

Dr. Baldwin engaged Messrs. Hopkins, Lawford & Nelson, architects of Montreal, to prepare plans for the east wing, which was begun in 1829, but not ready for occupation until 1832, when the Benchers met in it on the 6th of February. The cost was £3,350. Mr. John Ritchie was the builder and Mr. John Ewart seems to have superintended the work.

In 1844 a like structure was begun, and completed in two years, as the west wing, and this was connected with the east wing by a building with a small dome. The same architects were employed and their very artistic drawings are in possession of the present architects of the Society.

Mr. Kivas Tully, C.E., remembers that Mr. Lane, an English architect then in Toronto, was in some way engaged at this time, perhaps by the Montreal firm. His name does not appear on the plans. Mr. Joseph Sheard, afterwards Mayor of Toronto, was consulted as to some alterations in 1852.

¹ *Law Stamps.*—The Act introducing stamps and making payment by them compulsory was passed June 30th, 1864, and applied to Upper and Lower Canada. The receipts from this source in Ontario in 1902 were \$54,177, of which \$18,162 came from Osgoode Hall and \$3,240 from the distributor at the City Hall, the balance from other counties.