

DEATH OF THE CHANCELLOR.

equity diffused amongst the people—all objects, I need not say, of great public moment.”

Personally, the late Chancellor was very generally liked; more so, perhaps, than any other man of his day. Without seeking popularity, he was essentially popular, for none could resist his unaffected good humour, charm of manner, and evident warmth of heart. Mr. Vice-Chancellor Spragge at the opening of Court after the event, spoke in the most feeling manner of his death; and we are sorry we can only give the substance of his remarks:—

“Since I last met you, gentlemen of the Bar, an event has occurred, a most sad and unexpected one, which we all, the Bench and the Bar alike, most deeply deplore. The learned and able man, who for the past seven years has presided as its chief Judge, has passed away from amongst us, in the very prime of life, when, according to the ordinary course of nature, many years of honourable usefulness lay before him.

“The late Chancellor, let me add our late friend, for he was the warm and sincere friend of all of us, possessed many admirable qualities. With talents of a very high order, he combined one of the kindest natures that it has ever been my lot to meet with; and he discharged, with rare ability and the purest integrity, the duties of his high office. We have lost an able and upright Judge, and a man as beloved as he was respected. The country and the Judiciary, and in an especial manner this Court have much to deplore in the loss of such a man.

“He is dead, and we shall see his face no more, but his memory will long be held by all of us in affectionate remembrance.”

And Mr. Mowat, on the occasion already alluded to, further said:—

“He was, indeed, one of the most amiable of men; he had a warm and tender heart, and his friendship was deep and never failing. I never knew any one who had in him more to attract and less to repel. He probably never had a personal enemy. * * * During the period that he was engaged in politics, he was not only successful in obtaining and keeping the confidence of his political supporters, but he soon secured and he ever afterwards retained the personal friendship of, I believe, every one of his opponents in the House. Whatever those opposed to him, politically, may have thought of the measures or proceedings of the government of which he formed part, nobody doubted the purity of his motives or the soundness of his patriotism. He loved this Canada of ours, which was the land of his birth, and he

earnestly desired to promote its interests. * * * Few men will die leaving more friends to mourn his loss. Speaking for myself and for you, gentlemen of the Bar, I am sure that I may say, that we loved him very dearly, and that we mourn him very deeply, sorrowing greatly to remember that we are never again to press his hand, or hear his kindly voice.”

The day before the funeral, a meeting of the Bar was called, in the Library of Osgoode Hall, to express the feelings of the profession on the melancholy occasion, and their sympathy with the members of his family in their bereavement. The Attorney-General of Ontario, having introduced the subject in a few appropriate remarks, the following resolutions were passed:—

“Resolved.—1. That the Bar of Ontario desire to express their unfeigned grief at, and deep sense of the loss sustained by the Profession in the death of the late lamented the Hon. P. M. M. S. Van Koughnet, Chancellor of this Province.

“2. That the Bar attend the funeral of the late Chancellor in their robes, as a mark of respect to the deceased.

“3. That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be furnished to the Treasurer of the Law Society [absent from Toronto at the time], with a request that they may be entered on the books of the Society, and, that he be requested to call a meeting of the Bar for to-morrow, at two o'clock, at Osgoode Hall, to attend in a body the funeral of our late Chancellor.”

The funeral was largely attended by all classes, and amongst them might be seen many of the clerks who were under him when Commissioner of Crown Lands, by all of whom he is held in affectionate remembrance. The Pall-bearers were Hon. W. H. Draper, C. B., Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal, the Chief Justice of Ontario, Chief Justice Hagarty, Vice-Chancellors Spragge and Mowat, Judges Morrison, Wilson, Gwynne, and Galt, and Judge Duggan. The body was interred in St. James' Cemetery.

His name will be remembered in the history of Canada as that of a man endowed with a very high order of intellect, as an eloquent and effective speaker; both at the Bar and in Parliament; as an able administrator, shewn as well in the management of the Crown Lands Department, as in the reforms in the Court of Chancery; and, to crown all, a man with as kindly a heart as ever made a friend or disarmed an enemy.