

THE LATE JUDGE DUNKIN.

The Hon. Christopher Dunkin, D. C. L., Puisne Judge of the Superior Court of the Province of Quebec, was one of the most prominent men in this country during many years of his life and has held many important public offices. He was born in England in 1812, and was educated at University College, London, and at the Universities of Glasgow and Harvard, at which latter institution he held for a short time a position as Greek tutor. He came to this city when a young man and edited the *Montreal Morning Courier* from May, 1837, until the summer of 1838, when he became Secretary of the Education Commission under the Earl of Durham, the then Governor-General. He served under Lord Sydenham in carrying out the work of that Commission, and afterwards became Secretary of the Post-Office Commission, and in 1841 Assistant-Secretary for Lower Canada, in which office he remained until 1848. He studied law with the late Alexander Buchanan, Q. C., and subsequently with Mr. F. G. Johnson, afterwards the Hon. Justice Johnson, was called to the bar in 1846, and was made a Q. C. in 1867. He was a very successful lawyer in this city for some years, in partnership with the present Chief Justice Meredith and Mr. Strachan Bethune, Q. C., the firm of Bethune and Bethune being then known as Bethune and Dunkin. He was the unsuccessful candidate to represent Drummond in the Canadian Assembly in 1844, but sat in that body for Drummond and Arthabaska from the general election in 1857 to the general election in 1861 when he was defeated by Eric Dorion. Shortly after he was elected in Brome and sat for that county from January 1862 to Confederation, when he was returned for both the Commons and the Local House by acclamation, where he remained until his elevation to the Bench on the 25th of October 1871. He was a member of the Executive Council and Treasurer of the Province of Quebec from July 1867 until sworn in a member



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of the Privy Council and made Minister of Agriculture in November, 1869, which office he held until his appointment to the Judgeship of the District of Bedford. He retained the Judgeship up to the time of his death. He was once President of the Shakespeare Club, Montreal, was at his death a Governor of McGill University, a trustee of St. Francis College, Richmond, and a director of the South Eastern Junction Railway. He was Lieut-Colonel of the Volunteer Militia, First Montreal Light Infantry, from 1856 to 1859, and from September, 1866, to June, 1872, of the 52nd Battalion of Bedford. Judge Dunkin has lived for many years on his large farm on the shore of Brome lake, near Knowlton. His wife was Mary, daughter of the late Jonathan Barber, at one time of McGill University. The deceased was a consistent member of the Church of England. He was strongly Conservative in his politics, though refusing to follow that party in some of their measures opposing the Confederation of the Provinces and the Coalition Ministry which brought it about, and voting against the Cartier-Macdonald Administration a few years before in the vote of want of confidence which resulted in its defeat. He was a man of strict temperance principles and his name will be perpetuated by the fact of his being the author of the Temperance Act of 1854 better known as the "Dunkin Act." His decisions on the Bench gave universal satisfaction.

In his public, social and private life, Judge Dunkin was conservative, methodical, persevering, sternly just, but warmly sympathetic and philanthropic where help was really needed. Of these traits of character the number of his friends and the quantity and quality of the work done by him in his lifetime are the evidences. Said Mr. T. E. Foster, himself a resident of Knowlton, in summing up after giving a short sketch of the deceased Judge's prominent and untarnished career:—"All that I can say is that he is dead, and the world is much better for his having lived in it."



THE STREETS OF NEW YORK ILLUMINATED BY THE ELECTRIC LIGHT.—(SEE PAGE 67.)