

*SIR OLIVER MOWAT.*

The retirement from active political life of a man who has played so useful and honourable a part in public affairs as Sir Oliver Mowat, and the acceptance of the high position thus left vacant by the Hon. David Mills, are events of such general importance, and of such special interest to the legal profession, as to require more than a passing notice at our hands.

No man in public life in this country has filled so many places of public trust, has had a career so varied and yet so uniformly successful, and so absolutely free from reproach of any kind, as the present Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario. At the Bar, on the Bench, on the floor of Parliament, in the responsible position of a minister of the Crown, or in the no less responsible position of the leader of a great political party, Sir Oliver has always been equal to his duty, and has fulfilled it with credit to himself and benefit to his country. Happy it is for the country that this may be truthfully said, and, now that the fierceness of party strife no longer rages around him, is cheerfully admitted by all. So much of our political activity consists in using the weapons of slander, and in bandying charges and counter-charges of corruption, often, happily, without foundation, but none the less demoralizing by their indulgence, that it is gratifying when we find a public man against whom even his most determined foe would know that such means would injure no one but him who ventured to use them.

Entering upon the legal profession and subsequently into public life almost at the same time and in the same place with Sir John Macdonald, the career of Sir Oliver, if less brilliant than that of Sir John, has been pursued with fewer vicissitudes, and more even success. In the old Parliament of Canada Sir Oliver took a distinguished part, as well as in the framing of the Act of Confederation, and of those from Upper Canada who took part in that great work he is the only survivor. For a quarter of a century he ruled the Province of Ontario, and as a law giver and legislator his work is to