

EDITORIAL NOTES—THE SUPREME COURT BENCH.

opinions is a good one in the case of a Court of final appeal. We venture to think, with Lord Selborne, that in the case of a court from which there is no further appeal, the judgment should always be an authoritative one, free from the expression of individual opinions calculated to detract from its weight. A final tribunal which gives forth an uncertain sound is a very unsatisfactory institution. Moreover, the fact that but one judgment can be delivered is likely to exercise a beneficial influence on the care with which the judgment is prepared. It may be that the minority of the judges will devote more pains to finding out and laying bare the weak points in the draft judgment of the majority than they would if they were at liberty publicly to state the view which occurred to them, and it seems certain that the majority will be more anxious to appreciate and give effect to the opinions of the minority than if the latter had the opportunity of stating these opinions for themselves." These are wise and weighty words, and are singularly applicable to some of the deliverances of the Supreme Court at Ottawa, where unity has been lost sight of in the desire to emphasise points of judicial divergence.

On the 14th January last, Secker Brough, Esq., formerly Judge of the County Court of Huron, died at his residence, in Goderich.

Mr. Brough was born in Ireland in 1813. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin. Shortly after he emigrated to Halifax to join his uncle General Brough, R. A., then commandant at that place. He came afterwards to Toronto, where he entered the office of Messrs. Hagerman & Draper, then practising in partnership. He was called to the bar in 1840, and shortly afterwards

became partner of Mr. Draper, with whom he continued to practise until the elevation of that gentleman to the Bench.

During this period Mr. Brough was engaged in many of the leading cases of the day, and was employed in several confidential matters by the Government.

Upon the establishment of the Court of Probate for Upper Canada, he was appointed Judge, and continued to hold the office until the abolition of the Court and the distribution of its functions among the various County Surrogate Courts. Mr. Brough for several years had one of the most extensive practices at the Chancery Bar, and took a very active and prominent part as a bencher of the Law Society. In 1859 he was appointed Queen's Counsel. In November, 1866, he was appointed Judge of the County Court of the County of Huron by Sir John A. Macdonald. Infirmary of health obliged him to abandon that position in the summer of 1877.

A meeting of the bar and county officials of the County of Huron was held after his death, and resolutions were passed expressive of regret at his loss and of sympathy with his family.

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The retirement of Sir Wm. B. Richards from the distinguished position of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court has caused no surprise. He has well earned repose, even were his health better than it is. This Court can ill afford to lose the one of its Judges who, most of all, gave the public confidence in its future at its first organization. We have recently spoken at length of this learned Judge; but we cannot chronicle his retirement without expressing great regret that it must be so. His broad sagacious mind, cool clear head, intimate knowledge of