

THE HON. WILLIAM HUME BLAKE.

## DIARY FOR NOVEMBER.

1. Tues. *All Saints.*
5. Sat. Articles, &c., to be left with Sec. Law Society.
6. SUN. *21st Sunday after Trinity.*
13. SUN. *22nd Sunday after Trinity.*
16. Wed. Last day for service for County Court.
18. Frid. Examination of Law Students for call to the Bar.
19. Sat. Examination of Articled Clerks for certificates of fitness.
20. SUN. *23rd Sunday after Trinity.*
21. Mon. Michaelmas Term begins.
24. Thur. Last day for setting down and giving notice of re-hearing.
25. Frid. Paper Day, Queen's B. New Trial Day, C. P.
26. Sat. Declaration County Court. Paper Day, Common Pleas. New Trial Day, Queen's Bench.
27. SUN. *1st Sunday in Advent.*
28. Mon. Paper Day, Q. B. New Trial Day, C. P.
29. Tues. Paper Day, C. P. New Trial Day, Q. B.
30. Wed. *St. Andrew.* Paper Day, Queen's Bench. New Trial Day, Common Pleas.

THE

## Canada Law Journal.

NOVEMBER, 1870.

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It is our sad duty to record the death at Toronto, on the 15th inst., of the Hon. William Hume Blake, Ex-Chancellor of Upper Canada, in his sixty-second year.

Although some years have passed since Mr. Blake retired from his position on the Bench, and thus practically severed his connection with the profession, we cannot permit the occasion to pass without a tribute to his memory.

He was born in the County of Wicklow, Ireland, on 10th March, 1809, at Kiltegan. Of this parish his father, the Rev. Dominick Edward Blake, who died at the early age of fifty from the same disease which has now carried off his son, was Rector. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and was at first intended for the medical profession, having studied under Sir Philip Crampton. He subsequently thought of entering the Church, as in fact did his brother, the Rev. D. E. Blake, late Rector of Thornhill.

In 1832 Mr. Blake emigrated to Canada and settled in the Township of Adelaide with other members of his family, having shortly before he left Ireland married his cousin, Catherine Hume, the grand-daughter of William Hume, M. P. for Wicklow, well known in his day as a loyal gentleman, murdered by the rebels in 1798.

He commenced the study of the law in 1834, in the office of Mr. Washburn; and though he

began his legal studies later in life than is usual, he set to work with so much energy that he appeared to compress into a few years the work usually allotted to many. He was a careful and pains-taking reader, and as a student he pursued his studies with an amount of diligence and labour which was only fully understood by those with whom he was intimate, but which formed the stepping-stone to his ultimate success.

Mr. Blake was admitted as a member of the Law Society in Hilary Term, 1835, and was called to the Bar in Easter Term, 1835, Mr. Vice-Chancellor Esten being called in the Term following. In Michaelmas Term, 1845, he was appointed one of the Benchers of the Law Society, the names of the present Treasurer, Hon. J. H. Cameron, and the late Vice-Chancellor Esten, being the next on the list.

He formed a partnership with Mr. Joseph C. Morrison, now the senior Puisne Judge in the Queen's Bench, and they were afterwards joined by the late Dr. Connor, who, as well as his partners, was also, in 1863, elevated to the Bench.

Though for several years one of the most able, fearless, eloquent and successful of advocates, Mr. Blake will be best remembered in his intimate connection with the Court of Chancery, as its first Chancellor. The reformation of this Court was undertaken by the Baldwin-Lafontaine Government, of which Mr. Blake was Solicitor-General, in 1848; and it was then established on its present footing mainly through Mr. Blake's exertions. He was naturally selected by his colleagues as the proper and most desirable person to fill the seat of Chancellor, to which he was appointed on the 30th September, 1849; and the wisdom of the choice was proved by the thorough and efficient manner with which he set to work to remodel and thoroughly renovate and reform the then existing system of Chancery practice in every branch and detail.

The condition of the court at that time, and the tiresome, almost endless delays in even the simplest causes and proceedings had become almost a household word, and it was to remedy this great evil—alike felt by the public and the profession—that the new Chancellor applied himself. With undaunted perseverance and grasping intellect he grappled with the difficulties which presented themselves, swept away a multitude of the unwholesome relics of