

Belleville Reform Club. He is a Liberal in politics, and for many years took a very active part in the political contests of the county. He commenced practice as a barrister in November, 1862; in 1866, he formed a partnership with City Clerk Robertson, and subsequently, in 1878, with the late Mr. Jellett, and is now senior member of the firm of Flint & Sherry, solicitors for the Bank of Commerce, Belleville. Mr. Flint was, in 1884, appointed police magistrate of Belleville. He is an adherent of the Methodist church. He actively assisted in the erection of a Hospital and Home for the Friendless, and is a member of the advisory board. In 1859 he visited the continent in company with Judge Lazier, Alexander Robertson, M.P., and the late Mr. Jellett; and in 1884 he visited the Yellowstone Park. In September, 1866, he married Eliza, daughter of the late E. W. Holton, and niece of Hon. L. H. Holton.

Gowan, Hon. James Robert, Senator, Barrie, and ex-Judge of the judicial district of Simcoe, was born in the County of Wexford, Ireland, on the 22nd Dec., 1817. His parents were Henry Hatton and Elizabeth (*nee* Burkitt) Gowan. When young Gowan was in his fifteenth year his parents emigrated to Upper Canada, and thereafter, for many years, the father of our subject was deputy clerk of the Crown and Pleas for the County of Simcoe. This truly worthy man died in 1863, at the ripe age of 84. James Robert Gowan had attended school for several years in Ireland, but the greater part of his education was obtained in Canada. When his educational studies were completed, he entered upon a course of law with the Honourable James E. Small, of Toronto, solicitor-general for Upper Canada. In 1839 he was called to the bar, and began his practice in partnership with Mr. Small. Four years after, being called to the bar, he was appointed judge of the judicial district of Simcoe, now embracing Muskoka and Parry Sound. This appointment was made by the Baldwin-Lafontaine Liberal Administration. No tribute is needed from any pen to the legal capabilities and the integrity of a young man whom Robert Baldwin would select, at the age of 26, to fill a place upon the bench. Such an appointment is extremely rare, if not altogether exceptional, in our judicial history. The young judge at once entered heart and soul into his work, and his exertions in the judicial organization of his district were so successful that in the year following his appointment the magistrates of

the district presented him with a snuff-box of wrought gold, bearing an appropriate inscription. The district over which Judge Gowan was called to preside was one of the largest in Upper Canada, and he was obliged to face many hardships and dangers in his pioneer work. But, under his patience and energy, obstacles disappeared, and "with such diligence," says a writer, "did he perform his duties that after the lapse of nearly twenty-six years he was able to say, 'I have never been absent from the superior courts, over which I preside, and, as to the division courts (except when on other duties at the instance of the government), fifty days would cover all the occasions when a deputy acted for me.'" As will be seen by glancing at the "Canadian Legal Directory," government as well as associations of the bench always held the judgment, learning and wisdom of Mr. Justice Gowan in high esteem. In 1857 the judges of the courts of Queen's Bench and Common Pleas, being empowered to associate a district judge with them in making certain provisions regarding fees, under the Common Law Procedure Act, elected Judge Gowan for that duty. The Act for assimilating the Canadian law of probate and administration to that of England, and providing for courts in every judicial district, required the appointment by the governor of three judges—a judge of one of the superior courts of common law, a judge of the court of chancery, and a county judge, to make rules and orders regulating procedure in these courts, and for carrying the provisions of the law into full effect—and Justice Burns, Vice-Chancellor Spragge and Judge Gowan were the three judges appointed for the purpose in August, 1858, and who subsequently framed and settled the orders which now regulate the courts. Sir James Macaulay thus wrote in regard to the services rendered by our subject in the work of the consolidation of the public statutes of the country: "I feel every confidence that a good work has been achieved and a desirable basis laid for future legislation; and for the able services rendered by Judge Gowan, the government, the legislature and the public, as well as myself, are indebted to him." In 1869 Judge Gowan was appointed chairman of the Board of County Judges, a body which regulates the procedure of the division courts and settles conflicting decisions, their orders having the force of law throughout the province. After the confederation of the provinces it became necessary to assimilate and consolidate the criminal laws of the several provinces. This,