

Mr. JUSTICE MOSS.

will tax severely the Judges of our Superior Courts, and on none will this labour press more heavily than on the Chiefs of those Courts.

It is therefore with the greatest satisfaction, as well on personal grounds as also in the interests of justice, we heard of your appointment and meet you here to-day; and in saying this we are sure we express the opinion of the entire Bar of Ontario.

To the gentlemen throughout the Province who are concerned in the working of our municipal institutions we are also persuaded your appointment will be particularly acceptable. By your learned and laborious commentaries on a complicated system of municipal law you have smoothed the way over many difficulties, and have earned for yourself the entire confidence of our municipal bodies.

Trusting your Lordship may long be spared to fill your present position, satisfactorily we hope to yourself, and usefully, as we are convinced it will be, to the administration of justice we bid your Lordship a hearty and affectionate welcome to the County of Oxford.

Woodstock, October 26th, 1875.

HON. THOMAS MOSS,

JUSTICE OF THE COURT OF ERROR AND APPEAL.

MR. JUSTICE MOSS is the eldest son of the late John Moss, of the City of Toronto, and was born at Cobourg on the 20th August, 1836. His early education was at Knox' College, then called Gale's Institute. In 1850 he entered Upper Canada College, taking his place in the fourth form. Almost from the day he entered, it seemed to be conceded that his love of study, his facility for learning and his retentive memory, would enable him to attain the highest honours. The College has always esteemed him as the most distinguished of its alumni, and as yet no name appears on its roll of honour that deserves such preference, or has reflected such credit on that distinguished institution. Within four months from his entering College he obtained the first exhibition of the foundation, and was head of his form. This position he retained through the intermediate forms to the seventh, annually carrying off a number of prizes, and in 1854 was head boy of the College, obtaining its highest honour, the Governor-General's prize. In the fall of that year Mr. Moss commenced his studies at University College; and on ma-

triculating at Toronto University, obtained the first scholarships in classics and mathematics. In his first year he was awarded a prize for Latin prose, which he again obtained the following year, with those for Latin verse, English prose and French. In 1857 he obtained scholarships for classics, mathematics, and modern language, with the prizes for Greek prose and Latin verse, and in 1858 he graduated, being awarded the three gold medals for classics, mathematics and modern languages, being the only student who has as yet obtained a triple first class degree in the University of Toronto. In 1859 Mr. Moss took his master's degree and the prize thesis of that year.

On leaving the University Mr. Moss immediately entered upon the study of the law, in the office of Messrs. Crooks & Cameron, in this city. Upon the dissolution of that firm, Mr. Moss, having been called to the bar in 1861, commenced practice with Mr. Hector Cameron. He afterwards formed a partnership with the Hon. James Patton and Mr. Osler; and in 1871 was established the extensive firm of Harrison, Osler & Moss, having for its senior partner the present Chief Justice of Ontario. Mr. Moss's career at the Bar, though rapid, was gradual. When he commenced practice in the Court of Chancery he had to contend against the ablest members of the profession; and nothing but industry, close application to business, and brilliant talents could so soon have brought him into public notice. Calm and patient in the conduct of cases, an acute discerner of facts, clear and logical in his deductions, a close reasoner and a fluent speaker, he soon established his position as an able and reliable counsel and a formidable opponent, either on circuit or before the judges. Of late years Mr. Moss seldom held a brief at Nisi Prius, his great reputation at the Equity Bar, second only to and scarcely less than that of the talented and learned Minister of Justice, Mr. Edward Blake, giving him such an amount of important business as to preclude him from taking much common law work.

In 1864 he was appointed Equity Lecturer and one of the Examiners to the Law Society; and he was several times Examiner in law, as well as in other departments, in the University of Toronto, in