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*HON. JAMES ROBERT GOWAN, Q.C., C.M.G., LL.D.,  
SENATOR.*

As the original founder of this journal and its constant friend, as well as for other reasons more apparent to the public, it is appropriate that we should give to our readers the picture of the gentleman whose name is above-mentioned, and refer briefly to his career.

On the occasion of his retirement from the bench in October, 1883, we gave a brief memoir of his life and services up to that time, and we would refer our readers to the journal of that year, pages 301, 339 and 355. Further references to his career will be found in previous volumes of this journal as follows: 1885, p. 65; 1890, pp. 581, 596; 1893, p. 385.

Mr. Gowan was born Dec. 22, 1815, of an old Irish family which has contributed many distinguished men to the service of the Crown in days past. In 1834 he was admitted a student of the law to the Law Society of Upper Canada, and was on the 5th of August, 1839, called to the Bar, practising for a few years in Toronto with the late Hon. James E. Small, Solicitor-General. On Jan. 17, 1843, he was appointed, during the Baldwin-Lafontaine Government, Judge of the then Simcoe District with the unorganized Districts of Muskoka and Parry Sound, and the Islands on lakes Huron and Simcoe opposite thereto, an appointment which proved one of the very best made at the instance of that conscientious and eminent statesman the Hon. Robert Baldwin.

For some forty-two years Mr. Gowan occupied this judicial position to the great advantage of the public, enjoying the esteem and affection of all the members of the profession who practiced before him. No wiser, more worthy, or useful judge, to the extent of his sphere, ever sat on any bench. As appeals from his judgments were almost unknown, and his word law to the people in this district, and as he had the unbounded confidence of the bar it may naturally be supposed that his learning was equal to the other attributes which made the practice of the law in his courts a