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HON. JOSEPH AMABLE BERTHELOT.

From *Cyclopædia of Canadian Biography*.

[SECOND SERIES.]

TORONTO, 1887.

Berthelot, Hon. Joseph Amable, Judge of the Superior Court of Montreal. This learned judge was born on the 8th of May, 1815, at St. Eustache, county of Two Mountains, by the marriage of Joseph Amable Berthelot, notary, and Dame Marie M. Hervieux. Mr. Berthelot's father was from Quebec, where he finished his classical studies in 1796, having been the classmate of the late Hon. Judge Thomas Taschereau, the father of his eminence the Cardinal, and also that of the late Hon. Judge Vanfelson, who died in Montreal. Judge Berthelot began his Latin course in 1824, and finished it on the 9th of June, 1832, when at the age of seventeen. The course that year was suddenly terminated, on account of the cholera, the professors having deemed it prudent to send back the scholars to their families in the month of June. In the month of October of the same year he began his legal studies, being indentured with the late Hon. Sir. L. H. Lafontaine, who had married his cousin in 1830. Sir George E. Cartier, who was his classmate at college, also commenced studying law in 1832, in the office of the late Étienne E. Rodier, advocate, M.P.P. for the county of l'Assomption. After being admitted to the bar in November, 1836, he became the partner of Mr. Lafontaine, and continued to practise his profession in such partnership until July, 1853, when Mr. LaFontaine was appointed chief justice of the province of Lower Canada on the demise of the late Sir James Stuart. A few days after, Mr. Berthelot entered into partnership with his friend, the late Sir George E. Cartier, and continued this partnership until he was appointed assistant judge of the Superior Court, succeeding the late Hon. C. D. Day, who was appointed codifier in February,

1857. On Sir C. D. Day's resignation, having been accepted by the government, in 1860, Judge Berthelot was immediately appointed permanent judge of the Superior Court. On this occasion, in December, 1860, the *Barreau de Montréal* held a meeting in order to express publicly their satisfaction of the appointment of Judge Berthelot to the bench, and adopted resolutions, copies of which were transmitted to the judge, and also published in the newspapers of the day, amongst others in *La Minerve*. These resolutions read as follow :

At a special meeting of the members of the bar of Lower Canada, section of this district, which was held on Wednesday, the 12th of December instant, it was unanimously resolved :

1. Moved by Henry Stuart, seconded by Gédéon Ouimet, M.P.P., That the bar of Montreal has seen with real pleasure the promotion of the Honourable J. A. Berthelot, whose talents, high sense of honour, integrity, conscientious work and services already rendered as assistant judge, are a sure guarantee of the faithfulness with which he will fulfil the difficult duties of the new office which he has just entered as permanent judge of the Superior Court.

2. Moved by Andrew Robertson, seconded by C. A. Leblanc, That as citizens, and with due regard to public interest, the barristers of Montreal cheerfully greet the appointment of Mr. Justice Berthelot, and as his *confrères*, they are highly honoured as a body by this new appointment.

3. Moved by the Honourable T. J. J. Loranger, seconded by J. C. Daly, That copies of the foregoing resolutions be transmitted by the *batonnier* and secretary to Mr. Justice Berthelot, and that the secretary be authorized to publish them in the city papers.

(Signed), ROBERT MACKAY,
Batonnier,
(Signed), MÉRÉRIC MARCHAND,
Secretary.

The French paper, *L'Ordre*, made the following comments on the foregoing resolutions :

