

In 1834, Chief Justice Saunders died, followed by the elevation of Judge Chipman to his seat. At this time he was the junior Justice. As a Judge, he withdrew two years before from the Legislative Council, with the other Puisne Judges. As Chief Justice he returned, and continued to preside over it to 1843. From impaired health he resigned the Chief Justiceship in the fall of 1850, when Judge Carter succeeded to the office. He did not long survive his retirement, for he died before the dawn of day on the 26th November, 1851. The last rising and setting sun which he beheld, was on the sixty-seventh anniversary of the organization of the Supreme Court of Judicature of New Brunswick, and of which, for over twenty-five years, he was a distinguished member—dying in the house in which he was born, in his sixty-fifth year.

In the Supreme Court Room at Fredericton, there is an oil painting of the Chief Justice, taken in 1838 at the request of the Bench and the Bar.

The Chief Justice was married March 24th, 1817, to a daughter of the late Henry Wright, Esq., Collector of Customs at St. John. Mrs. Chipman is yet living.

Chief Justice Chipman was the last of the Bench who discharged both judicial and legislative duties, and the last chosen by the Imperial Government to represent national interests.

Whatever diversity of gifts the twelve first Judges of New Brunswick possessed, or however varied their professional attainments, the voices of the historic past unite, that one and all, "Truly and indifferently administered justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of true religion and virtue." The testimony of one who has long and ably discharged Judicial duties is: "They were honorable, high-minded men, who, by their learning and sterling integrity, gave the Court a character which, he trusts, it will ever be the ambition of their successors, to the best of their ability, to maintain." Of them it can be said, they were men honored in their generation, and the leaders of their time. Spotless each received the Ermine; spotless each laid it down. Their motto through life was the old historic one, "THE BIBLE AND THE CROWN."