

newspaper called *The Economist*; in 1860 removed to Toronto and became associated in business with Hon. Edward Blake, the firm name being Blake, Kerr and Wells; remained in this firm until 1870, when he retired and formed a partnership with Hon. Angus Morrison, Q.C. The present name of his firm is Morrison, Wells and Gordon, one of the leading professional firms of Toronto.

In 1871 he was appointed to the office of County Attorney, for the County of York, and City of Toronto. This office he retained about a year, when he resigned to become the Reform candidate for the South Riding of Bruce, for which constituency he was elected in October, 1872; was elected Speaker, January 7, 1873, and being re-elected held that honorable and responsible office till the close of the Parliament. Mr. Wells was again elected for South Bruce, at the general elections held in 1879.

## ROBERT DENNISTOUN, Q.C.,

### PETERBOROUGH.

JUDGE DENNISTOUN, of the County Court of Peterborough County, was born at Camis Eskan, Dumbarton, Scotland, January 18, 1815. His father, James Dennistoun, of Dennistoun, was a country gentleman, commander of Dumbartonshire Yeomanry, and Deputy-Lieutenant of the county, and the maiden name of his mother was Mary Oswald. The history of the Dennistoun family is found in Anderson's "The Scottish Nation," and shows it to be very ancient. Sir Hugh Dennistoun founded the branch known as "Colgrain," 1296, in which branch we find the name of Judge Dennistoun, of Peterborough, who is the sixteenth generation from Sir Hugh. James Wallis Dennistoun, nephew of the Judge, is the present representative of the family, being in the seventeenth generation.

The subject of this biographical notice was educated principally in his native county; came to Upper Canada in 1834; settled in the Township of Fenelon, County of Victoria; farmed there until 1844, then commenced the study of law; was called to the Bar at Osgoode Hall, Toronto, Easter Term, 1849, and practised in Peterborough, nearly twenty years, being created a Queen's Counsel meanwhile in 1867. The next year he was appointed to the Bench, as already mentioned. When practising at the Bar he was regarded as sound and perfectly honest, and on the Bench he maintains his character for uprightness and integrity, and in his judgment is clear and impartial.

While a resident of Fenelon, Judge Dennistoun was connected with the militia, and held the commission of Captain, and subsequently was Lieutenant-Colonel 5th Peterborough battalion. He has been elder in the Presbyterian Church since 1858, and is much respected for the high tone of his Christian character.

In 1839, Maxwell, daughter of Major Robert Hamilton of the 79th regiment, became the