

## CHIEF JUSTICE HARRISON.

Manual, and it was issued the following year. So popular was this edition that it was out of print within six weeks of its publication. One of the most important works with which his name was connected was "Harrison & O'Brien's Digest," prepared by Mr. Henry O'Brien under Mr. Harrison's supervision in 1863.

Mr. Harrison's connection with the editorial department of this Journal has been already referred to. His industrious pen contributed numerous articles of great value to its pages, whilst the numerous cases reported by him, and to be found nowhere else, are still invaluable to the practitioner, and his labours have added largely to what measure of success this journal has attained.

To perseverance, industry, and downright hard work Mr. Harrison has attributed his success. But it is evident that there is something behind these. Perseverance may be followed by success, and industry may meet with reward, but apart from a constitutional ability to perform hard work, a brilliant career like his only attends those who have other and higher gifts. Earnest and impressive, he had great weight and astonishing success with juries, whilst his research, and industrious preparation of his cases, rendered him an opponent that none attempted to underestimate. Mr. Harrison's powers of work, and the experience gained from a large and varied practice at the Bar, will stand him in good stead on the bench, whilst his reputation as a sound lawyer and successful counsel will give him the confidence of suitors. The brilliant names of Robinson, McLean, Draper and Richards are still fresh in the memory of his countrymen. He has the inspiration of their example, and we are confident that he will do no discredit to the fame of the oldest Court of this Province, over which we hope he may for many long years preside, with honour to himself and benefit to his country.

Mr. Harrison's career, from the time he was a boy at school, high up in his form, until he attained his present position, gives an example which students would do well to follow. He knew no such word as *cannot*; his motto was *try*. He had a thorough belief in his own future. He aimed high, and did not miss his mark.

He was made one of Her Majesty's Counsel on 28th June, 1867, and was elected a Bencher of the Law Society in 1871, when the election of Benchers was thrown open to the Bar. His last act in this capacity was to move a resolution appointing a committee to "consult with the Attorney-General and the Municipal Councils of York and Toronto, on the subject of building a new Court House for Assize and County business on Osgoode Hall grounds." We should have been glad had he been enabled to carry out so desirable a suggestion; a practical matter in which his common sense and energy would have been of great assistance.

In 1865 he was elected an alderman for the city of Toronto, and represented, in the Dominion Parliament, the west riding of that city, in the Conservative interest, from 1867 to 1872.

The elevation of Mr. Harrison to the Bench has been most favourably received throughout the Province, and the following address (one of many), presented to him by the Bar of the County of Oxford, at the recent Assizes at Woodstock, reflects the general sentiments of the profession in the country:—

*To the Honourable Robert Alexander Harrison,  
Chief Justice of Ontario :*

The presence of your Lordship at the Assizes now being held affords the members of the Oxford Bar an opportunity we gladly avail ourselves of to offer you, as we now do, our sincere and hearty congratulations on your elevation to the Chief Justiceship of Ontario; and that at so early an age as to promise your long continuance in that most important position.

When the announcement had been made that Chief Justice Richards was about to assume the Chief Justiceship of the Supreme Court, the attention of the profession was naturally directed to the appointment of his successor, and the liveliest satisfaction was felt when it was found that a gentleman had been selected of large experience, of great depth and variety of legal learning, and of untiring energy in the exercise of those qualities.

At no period of our legal history will the display of those qualities be more called for than during the next few years. The changes recently made in the practice of our Courts, and those that will come into force in England in a few weeks, will require a degree of labour and experience of the law in all its branches that