

THE LATE MR. JUSTICE DAY.

At the Convocation of McGill University, held March 29, Mr. Justice Mackay delivered the following address concerning the late Chancellor of the University, Hon. C. D. Day :

Since we last met in Convocation a great loss has fallen upon the University by the death of our late Chancellor, the Honourable Mr. Justice Charles Dewey Day. He was its first Chancellor under the amended statutes of 1864, and for 32 years was president of the Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning. He continued actively to discharge the duties of those offices until his death, which occurred in England in January last. He had in his lifetime filled several positions of honour in this province; he was solicitor-general, and one of the chiefs practising at the bar of this city when in 1842 he was offered and accepted a seat in the Queen's Bench, which he continued to fulfil the duties of until 1857, when he was appointed (we may truly say by reason of his fitness) one of the commissioners to codify the laws of Lower Canada. As a judge the deceased was remarked for his practical energy, his great talent for despatch of business, and for analysis, his soundness of judgment, and his impartiality. He frequently presided at jury trials, which in his time seem to have been resorted to more frequently than nowadays; his charges to juries, and these are things that sometimes try judges, were remarkably practical, lucid, sound and judicial. In 1864, upon the completion of the codes, which will ever remain a monument of his and his colleagues' industry and learning, Judge Day retired from the bench; but he never ceased to interest himself in the affairs of this University whose growth and progress, from very small beginning, he was witness of and powerfully contributed to. When he took office the students in arts numbered three, in the law faculty four and in medicine fifty-three. In 1883 the students in arts numbered: undergraduates 99, partial and occasional 58—in all 157. The students in law numbered 26, in medicine 204, and the school of applied science was working with students, undergraduates 55, partial and occasional 14—together 69. In 1881, when the financial condition of the University was discouraging, the late chancellor, assisted by our worthy principal, prepared a statement of its affairs, accompanied by an appeal to the public for aid. This he supported by an elo-

quent speech at a public meeting. The result, as you know, was encouraging, friends of the University seemed to be raised up, liberal donations were made to it and it was relieved from its embarrassment. After the first meeting of the governors, after the melancholy news of Judge Day's death reaching us, it was resolved :

"That the governors of McGill College deeply lament the irreparable loss which this University has sustained in the death of their late colleague, the Hon. Charles Dewey Day, for 32 years the president of the Royal Institution for Advancement of Learning and first chancellor under the amended statutes of 1864, and one of the earliest and most valuable members of this board.

"The history of the University is intimately bound up with the long course of his administration, and its progress and prosperity in a great measure are due to his eminent ability and the wise counsels that have at all times been rendered by him to promote its interests and welfare.

"The governors desire to record the high appreciation and esteem they feel for the great worth of his private and public character, the memory of which will be ardently cherished with reverence and affection by those whose privilege it has been to be personally and officially connected with him."

And at the meeting of the corporation of the University, held yesterday, a resolution of like substance was unanimously agreed to. The resolutions referred to free me, in a degree, from saying some other things that I might have said. I am confident that they will be approved by each and every person present in this hall and by all who take interest in the affairs of the University, as a true and just tribute to the memory of an old and faithful servant of it, a worthy man, the blank left by whose decease it will be very difficult to fill up.

RECENT ENGLISH DECISIONS.

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