

THE TREASURER OF THE LAW SOCIETY.

known as the "Whitewashing clause," section 49 of the Election Act of last session. It will be curious if the result is to enable the present petitioner, on behalf of Mr. Neelon, to charge Mr. Rykert with corrupt acts in the first election, which on the first trial were abandoned, and prevent Mr. Rykert, the present respondent, from charging Mr. Neelon, for whom the seat is now claimed, with corrupt acts at the same election, of which Mr. Neelon was on the same occasion proved guilty. The profession do not give the Ontario Legislature credit for very careful legislation, but no one would like to charge them with intentionally perpetrating such an enormous injustice as this.

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It is with no ordinary feelings of pleasure that we draw attention to the following address, accompanied by a suitable testimonial, presented to the Hon. John Hillyard Cameron, Treasurer of the Law Society, on the 20th of May last.

From the time that Mr. Cameron was called to the Bar his name has been prominently before the public. His career as a lawyer is all that concerns us at present. As a young man he was a diligent student, and so thoroughly grounded in the first principles of the law, that his off-hand opinion is accepted with a confidence not usually accorded. He is now by seniority the leader of the Bar, but he acquired that honourable distinction years ago, by a professional career of the most brilliant kind. His learning, his extraordinary memory and wonderful capacity of applying his mind to the subject in hand, added to his natural sagacity, gained the confidence of the profession and others who sought his opinion; whilst the same qualities, combined with a tact, readiness and coolness possessed by few, great

energy and force of character, a large gift of eloquence, a courteous manner and commanding presence, made him the most successful advocate that this country has yet produced.

But to the profession as a body he is not only known as the brilliant leader of the Bar, but as the head of the Law Society. For thirty years—half his life time—he has been a Benchers. Sixteen years ago he was elected Treasurer on the death of Sir James Macaulay, and he has been re-elected continuously every year since. In 1871 the Benchers were made elective by the Bar, and it might have been thought that this would break the charm; but, on the contrary, he was continued in the same honourable position by the direct representatives of the profession, who have now, upon the expiration of their term of office, in a marked manner, evinced their appreciation of Mr. Cameron's services as Treasurer, and of the "esteem and regard in which he is held by the members of the Bar of Ontario."

One of the pleasantest features of the subject before us is the fact that the Bar of Ontario have risen superior to all petty jealousies and personal prejudices, and that political feeling has never been allowed to interfere either with the administration of the affairs of the Society or with the choice of its Treasurer. We trust this may long continue, but it will require a full appreciation by the Benchers of the responsible nature of their position, not only to keep clear of political bias in their deliberations in convocation, (and there has been no difficulty as to *this*) but also, to withstand the importunities of some of the younger and more ardent men, who are so accustomed to the strife of party politics that they forget what is due to themselves and to others as members of the same honourable and independent profession. It cannot but be gratifying to Mr. Cameron, as it is highly honourable to the Benchers, that