

second son, John Beverley, was born, on the 26th July, 1791. In the following year, at the solicitation of Major-General Simcoe, his former commanding officer, he removed to Upper Canada, where he first settled at Kingston, and shortly afterwards came to Toronto. Here he commenced the practice of law, and on the formation of the Upper Canada Law Society was elected one of its first benchers. He afterwards represented the United Counties of Lennox and Addington in the Legislative Assembly, and also held a commission as Deputy Ranger of Woods and Forests for Upper Canada. Of his public career there is little recorded, but he was well known to have been a gentleman of great courage and much kindness of disposition. He died, having for many years been a sufferer from gout, on the 4th November, 1798, leaving a family of three sons and three daughters. His eldest son, Peter, represented for many years the County of York in the Legislative Assembly, and afterwards became a member of the Legislative Council and Commissioner of Crown Lands, and he died in the year 1838. William, his youngest son, a gentleman of considerable ability and highly esteemed, is still living. He has also been in the House of Assembly, having for many years represented the County of Simcoe, he was at one time Inspector General of the Province, afterwards Commissioner of Public Works, and is now one of the two Commissioners of the Canada Company.

John Beverley having been left an orphan at the early age of seven years, Mr. Stuart, father of the late Archdeacon of Kingston, a gentleman universally respected, owing to his former friendship to Mr. Robinson, and attracted by the qualities of the lad, undertook the guardianship of his future course of life; and having placed him under the tuition of Dr. Strachan, now the venerable Bishop of Toronto, John Beverley accompanied him as a pupil, on the opening of the grammar school, to the village of Cornwall. Sir John Robinson's school-boy life was a true index of the future man. From the first he evinced that love of study, that untiring perseverance, and that steady industry, which so particularly characterized him in after years. He excelled in classics and English literature, and was proficient in mathematics. His mind, we are told, was wonderfully comprehensive; he could master the contents of a book sooner than any of his companions, and, owing to his extraordinary memory, could not only retain what he read, but, on a mere perusal, was able to repeat long passages from favorite authors with accuracy. He advanced with great rapidity at school, and soon attained the foremost place among his fellows. Uniting with his scholastic attainments uniform good conduct, he naturally became a great favorite with his tutor, a feeling which afterwards matured into a staunch and enduring friendship.

It lasted, uninterruptedly even for a single day, through every phase of their varied lives, and terminated only in his death. Nor should we omit to mention that at this early age Sir John Robinson evinced a love of truth and amiability of disposition, and displayed in a marked manner those sentiments of piety and virtue, which continued to influence his future life. In the pastimes of the play-ground he took the same lead as he did in the school: few could match him in manly exercises and feats of agility; and his pleasantries and readiness to oblige made him the idol of his school companions, and their valued friend in after years. Among his cotemporaries, there were no less than four, besides himself, who attained to an eminent position on the bench—the present Chief Justice of Upper Canada, the Hon. Henry John Boulton, the late Chief Justice of the Common Pleas Sir James Buchanan Macaulay, and the late Mr. Justice Jones; a circumstance not only remarkable of itself, but strongly suggestive of the merits of the training, scholastic as well as social, which fitted so many men, all at one time boys together at a village grammar school, for such high standing in legal honors.

At the age of sixteen, having a strong desire to study law, he placed himself under articles to Solicitor-General Boulton, with whom he studied for three years. During this period he acted for a friend as Clerk of the House of Assembly, and having given general satisfaction, at the close of the session his services were rewarded by a vote of £50, "for his extraordinary attention to the duties of his office."

Unable to continue his studies during Mr. Boulton's absence from the country, he entered the office of Attorney-General Macdonald, and there completed the remainder of his time. Before, however, he could be called to the bar, his services were required in a far different capacity. In 1812 the American Government declared war against Great Britain, and chose Canada, as being the most vulnerable part of the empire, for attack. True to the traditions of his ancestors, he at once exchanged the pen for the sword, and forsook all private enterprises to follow the fortunes of the British flag. In the capacity of Lieutenant in the York Militia, he accompanied General Sir Isaac Brock in the bold expedition which resulted in the capture of Detroit. After the surrender of that important fortress, he was placed in the detachment which formed a guard over General Hull, who, with a large part of his force, had been brought down from Lake Erie as prisoners of war. On the return of the detachment, they were again sent, with recruited numbers, on active service, to the Niagara frontier. On the 13th of October, the memorable battle of Queenston Heights was fought, where the gallant Brock was killed, together with his aid-de-camp, Attorney-General