

## MR. JUSTICE O'CONNOR.

should have a representative any more than any other class we are at a loss to see). He there held the different positions of President of the Council, Minister of Inland Revenue and Postmaster-General.

He was created a Q.C. in 1873. On the 17th September, 1884, he was appointed one of the Judges of the Queen's Bench Division on the elevation of Sir Matthew Crooks Cameron to the Chief Justiceship of the Common Pleas Division.

As Mr. O'Connor had for some time previously to his appointment to the Bench, devoted his time chiefly to politics, his labours as a Judge were specially arduous, but he never flinched from his work and he died in harness. Contrary to the advice of his physician, he went on the Autumn Circuit, realizing that the work had to be performed and the persons to do it had been diminished by death and illness. He went to Cobourg to hold the assizes, but not being able to perform his duties Judge Benson acted for him, and while still there he was attacked by an illness which caused his death in a few hours.

The Hon. Mr. Justice Rose referred to the death at the opening of his court the following day, in the following words:

"Before entering upon the business of the Court, I desire to refer to the very sad and sudden death of the Hon. Mr. Justice O'Connor. Thus another of our judicial brethren has been removed from our side. Since my appointment, four years ago this present month, four of the judges of the Superior Court of this Province have been removed by death—Chief Justice Spragge, Mr. Justice Morrison, Chief Justice Sir Matthew Crooks Cameron and Mr. Justice O'Connor, an average of one a year. Truly life is but a span, and very soon the night cometh wherein no man can work. Our deceased

brother no doubt, like the rest of us, had his faults, but in the short period he was amongst us as a brother Judge we learned that he was a man of kind heart, clear head, broad common sense, fair minded, impartial, with a strong will, always determined to do his duty as he understood it and to administer justice without fear, favour or affection. Taken from the midst of political life, not fresh from the Bar, he was of course not as familiar with the recent decisions as otherwise he would have been. This made his labour more arduous, and, with the weight of advancing years and at times much physical infirmity, caused his burden to be greater than appeared to most. His indomitable pluck and perseverance enabled him to overcome many difficulties, and he was ever ready not only to perform the work which in ordinary course fell to his lot, but also to volunteer assistance when required to relieve others who might be unduly pressed. Ever kind and cheerful, he brought to our councils no unpleasant word, no disturbing element. In sadness we turn away from his vacant seat, and join with many others in saying, 'Requiescat in pace.'"