

XXVI.

THE HONORABLE JOHN WILSON, JUDGE OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS.



It is to be regretted that there exists no written record of the life of this excellent Judge.

That elegant writer, the late W. J. Rattray, B.A., in his "Scot in British North America," alludes to this want in his reference to Chief Justice Sir Thomas Galt. Referring to him he says :

Mr. Galt was in 1858, appointed Queen's Counsel, and in 1869, on the death of Judge John Wilson—a Scot of whom unhappily we have no record—was elevated to the Bench, as a Justice of the Court of Common Pleas.

As I knew Judge John Wilson from my early boyhood, when he resided in the Bathurst District, and I, with my family, in the Johnstown District, I have felt it a duty to endeavour to rescue from oblivion the memory of a Judge, who was a man of noble instincts, and a Judge of irreproachable integrity.

Judge John Wilson was a Scotchman, son of Ebenezer Wilson, and was born at Paisley, in November, 1809. He was only fourteen years of age when his father determined to emigrate to Canada. The determination was put into execution, and soon John's father and family found themselves settled on a farm in the County of Lanark, about twenty miles from Perth. The names of Paisley, Lanark, and Perth, will bring home to the reader