

1864, when he retired awhile from public life; was an unsuccessful candidate for Kingston, against the Hon. John A. Macdonald, in 1862; was elected to his present seat by acclamation in November, 1872, re-elected in 1875 by acclamation, and re-elected after a contest in 1879.

He is a member of the Presbyterian Church, and has a high standing in the community. He has been President of the Evangelical Alliance of Ontario for the last fourteen or fifteen years. The honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon him by the University of Queen's College, in April, 1872.

In 1846 Mr. Mowat married Jane, second daughter of John Ewart, of Toronto, and they have buried two children and have five living.

As a lawyer, Mr. Mowat very early acquired the confidence of the profession and the Court in which he chiefly practised. He rose rapidly in his profession, and when he entered political life stood in the front ranks of the Chancery Bar. He was forcible and energetic in argument, fertile in resources, and withal conscientious to a degree. He possessed in an eminent degree the power which the few in any profession possess,—of "thinking out" the subject upon which he was engaged. Perhaps he was stronger in his ability to go to the bottom of any subject than any of his cotemporaries. To these qualifications he added exhaustless patience and untiring industry. No subject was too complicated for him; no details too minute.

As a judge, he carried all these qualifications with him to the Bench, and he added to them a dignity of demeanor, gentleness of manner and a polished courtesy which won for him not merely the respect and esteem, but the positive liking of every one who came in contact with him in his judicial capacity. His capacity for work and great industry was soon apparent upon the records of the Court, in its improved machinery, and in the despatch of business. By nature endowed with a judicial temperament and a logical mind, no man in the profession could have been chosen who would have brought more learning and industry to the work of the Bench than Mr. Mowat. His retirement from judicial labors was universally admitted as a loss to the Courts of the Province, but by his acceptance of the portfolio of Attorney-General, and of the position of leader of the Government of the Province, he placed himself in a position to accomplish more for the people as a "Law Reformer" than though he had reached the place of highest dignity among the judges of the land.

It is one of the most remarkable features of Attorney-General Mowat's career, that surrounded in early life by Conservative influences, both family and professional, he has nevertheless developed a liberalism both of thought and action, which has placed him in the very front rank of those who claim the political designation of Reformers.

This, however, has not been the result of impulse, nor has it arisen from any violent estrangement from old political connections. It would probably be hard to find any one with whom Mr. Mowat has ever had a serious difference, except upon the broad ground of opinion,