

STRATFORD.—On 2nd, lightning and thunder with rain. 4th, 10th, 29th, large lunar circle. 30th, indistinct lunar circle. 19th, mill pond frozen. 23rd, first sleighing. Wind storms, 2nd, 8th, 9th, 22nd. Fogs, 25th, 28th. Rain, 2nd, 3rd, 8th, 9th, 28th. Snow, 9th, 14th—18th, 21st—23rd.

HAMILTON.—On 3rd, rainbow from 7.20 to 7.30 A.M., colors very distinct. 9th, rainbow at 3.10 P.M. 10th, lunar halo. 11th, solar halo in forenoon. 14th and 22nd, hail. 25th, ordinary meteor in NE 45° high, fell NE, time 10.10 P.M. First great storm, 22nd and 23rd—first high wind, then hail to depth of two inches, and then snow six inches deep; snow and hail eight inches deep; snow began to melt almost immediately, and by 26th it had nearly disappeared. Wind storms, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 8th, 19th, 22nd, 26th. Fog, 28th. Rain, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 8th, 9th, 12th, 14th, 17th, 28th. Snow, 15th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd. Weather during month remarkably fine. High winds have greatly prevailed; the leaves remained on the trees much longer this year than usual.

SIMCOE.—On 1st, earthquake. 2nd, lightning and thunder with rain. 9th, first snow. Wind storms, 3rd, 22nd. Fog, 28th. Rain, 8th, 9th, 22nd, 29th. Snow, 9th, 13th, 18th, 23rd.

WINDSOR.—On 1st, meteor in W towards H. 2nd, lightning and thunder with rain. 2nd, 3rd, 8th, 9th, 10th, lunar halo. 5th, meteor in NE towards H. 9th, meteor in E towards N. 12th, meteor in NE towards N. 21st, in NE towards H. 27th, in E towards H. Wind storms, 8th and 9th. Fog, 7th. Snow, 9th, 14th, 16th, 18th, 22nd, 23rd. Rain, 2nd, 4th, 8th, 17th.

IV. Biographical Sketches.

1. HON. W H. BLAKE.

Ex-Chancellor Blake was born at Kiltegan, in the county of Wicklow, Ireland, on the 10th March, 1809. He was the second son of the Rev. Edward Dominick Blake, Rector of Kiltegan and of Lough-bucklow, and Rural Dean. This gentleman was of the family of the Blakes of Cashlegrove, County Galway, and his wife, Anne Margaret Hume, was of the Humes of Humewood, in Wicklow. Mr. Blake was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, where he took honours. He studied surgery for some time under Dr. Philip Crampton, and afterwards studied for the Church. In 1832, he married his cousin Catharine Hume, grand-daughter of William Hume of Humewood, M. P. for Wicklow. Immediately after his marriage, Mr. Blake emigrated to Canada—where his brother the late Rev. D. E. Blake, (Rector of Adelaide and afterwards of Thornhill) his brother-in-law, the Rev. C. C. Brough (Archdeacon of London) his brother-in-law, the late Rev. Mr. Flood (Rector of Delaware) and other members of the family, also settled. His first residence was on a farm in the township of Adelaide, then in "the backwoods;" but in 1834 he removed to Toronto, and commenced his studies for the Bar under the late Mr. Washburn.

Mr. Blake was called to the Bar in the year 1838, and from the first took up a commanding position as an Advocate in the Law and Equity Courts. His tall, handsome person and fine open face, his felicitous language and bold manly utterance gained him at once the full attention of Court and Jury; and his vigorous grasp of the whole case under discussion, his acute, logical dissection of the evidence, and the thorough earnestness with which he threw himself into his client's case, swept everything before it. In the days when Draper, and Sullivan, and Baldwin, and Eccles were at the Bar, it was something to stand beyond compare the foremost. Mr. Blake became associated in business with Mr. Joseph C. Morrison—now one of the Judges of the Court of Queen's Bench—and some years later, his relative the late Dr. Connor, who in 1863 became one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas entered the firm—and for ten years a flood of business poured in upon them.

Mr. Blake and his partners were all active members of the Liberal party. In the early contests for Municipal Institutions, National Education, Law Reform and all progressive measures, they took an earnest part. Mr. Blake at the general election of 1844 was the Reform Candidate for the second Riding of York—now the County of Peel—but was defeated by a narrow majority on the second day of polling by the present Recorder Duggan. A little later, he contested unsuccessfully the County of Simcoe, in opposition to the Hon. W. B. Robinson. At the general election of 1847, while absent in England, Mr. Blake was returned by a large majority for the East Riding of York—now the County of Ontario. The result of that election was the entire overthrow of the Conservative Government, and the accession of the Liberal party to power, under Messrs. Baldwin and Lafontaine, on the 10th March, 1848. Mr. Blake became Solicitor-General under the new arrangement, and was duly re-elected for East York. Then followed the struggle over the famous Rebellion Losses Bill. In that contest Mr. Blake took an active part in support of Lord Elgin, who was so outrageously treated.

The Baldwin Lafontaine Government undertook the reform of the inefficient Court of Chancery, increased the number of Judges to three, as at present, and gave it the improved system of procedure which has earned for the Court its present efficiency and popularity. When the measure became law, the question came who should be

appointed to the seats on the Bench that had been created. There was but one answer in the profession. Mr. Blake was universally pointed out as the man best fitted for the post of Chancellor. It required considerable persuasion on the part of his colleagues to induce Mr. Blake to accept the appointment; he desired to remain in public life; his emoluments at the bar were far greater than they would be on the Bench, and he would have much preferred to remain at the Bar for some years longer. But the pressure of his friends was greater than he could resist, and on the 30th of September, 1849, he accepted the Chancellorship of Upper Canada which he continued to fill until 1862, when failing health compelled him to retire.

Mr. Blake, while at the Bar, held for a number of years the position of Professor of Law in the University of Toronto, but resigned it when he became Solicitor-General. He took a deep interest in all the affairs of the University, of which he was for a long time the able and popular Chancellor. Afflicted with gout in its most distressing form, Mr. Blake has since his retirement from the Bench sought relief from his sufferings in milder climes. He returned to Canada some months since, and yesterday sank to his rest, surrounded by his deeply attached and sorrowing family.—*Globe*.

2. THE HON. JOHN ROSS.

Mr. Ross was born in the County of Antrim, Ireland, in March of the year 1818. When he was yet only three months old his parents emigrated to Canada. His school days were chiefly spent at Brockville, in the District School of which he acquired the greater part of his education. At the age of sixteen he entered the law office of Mr. Buel, subsequently removing to that of Mr. George (now Judge) Sherwood. In 1839, having then attained his majority, he was called to the bar, and at once entered upon the practice of his profession with much success. The painstaking care, steady perseverance and indomitable will which Mr. Ross ever displayed secured for him at an early day a very considerable practice. Like many another man of ability, however, he drifted into politics, with which thereafter he became more closely identified. His legal practice in the county of Hastings gave to Mr. Ross considerable influence in that county, which up to the period of which we are now speaking had steadily gone Conservative. The importance of gaining it to the Liberal side led to Mr. Ross inducing Mr. Baldwin to contest it against Mr. Murney, which he did with the desired success. "The contest," says a writer, in referring to the events of that day, "was animated and severe, terminating in the defeat of Mr. Murney by a narrow majority, and to the judgment and energy of Mr. Ross, and the weight of his personal character, was the victory chiefly due." Soon afterwards, to serve the party with which he was then allied, Mr. Ross established a newspaper which acquired a considerable circulation and large influence. His merits and services as a party man were now recognized, and in the Fall of 1848, when Mr. Sullivan was elevated to the Bench, Mr. Ross was called to the Legislative Council. He at once took an active part in politics, bringing to bear upon every public question a ripe judgment and excellent common sense. Although in 1849 he took a prominent part as a leader in Parliament, it was not until 1851, when Mr. Hincks formed his government, that he came into office as Solicitor-General. In the following year he went to England to attend to Grand Trunk matters, with which the Government of that time was necessarily very closely allied, and was made President—a position which, we believe, we are correct in saying, he held for several years without any remuneration whatever. In the construction of the Victoria Bridge Mr. Ross took a deep interest. For ten years, or more Mr. Ross held office almost uninterruptedly. On Mr. Richards' removal to the Bench in 1853, he became Attorney-General, and remained in that office until the fall of the Hincks Administration, just prior to the famous coalition of the year 1854. When that coalition was formed he was selected Speaker of the Legislative Council, which was at that time a ministerial office. The early years of the combination were not passed most harmoniously. Mr. Ross, believing that the Reform element which he represented from Upper Canada did not receive the support to which it was entitled from Sir Allan McNab's followers, withdrew from the ministry in April, 1856, giving his reasons for his conduct to the friends of his party. Mr. Ross's withdrawal from the Cabinet destroyed its effectiveness; and in a few days after, Sir Allan McNab himself gave up the ship, and Mr. John A. Macdonald was entrusted with the formation of a new cabinet. The manly independence of Mr. Ross's course, in those somewhat trying times, was the subject of universal praise. In the beginning of 1858, at the urgent solicitation of Mr. Macdonald, Mr. Ross became a member of the Government, taking the Receiver-General's portfolio and the leadership of the Legislative Council. In August of the same year he retired, with his colleagues, on the Seat of Govern-