

*The Legal News.*

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The shafts of the great archer are flying thickly, and in the profession, as well as out of it, the losses have been heavy. Scarce hath fallen "the tender tear which nature sheds" over one we valued, when a fresh loss renews our grief. In the city of Montreal alone, within three short weeks, two judges—Ramsay and Torrance—and four members of the bar—Turgeon, Rogers, René Cotret, and R. A. Ramsay—have been removed by death. Within less than a year, the composition of the provincial bench has been greatly altered. Six judges have died—McCord, Macdougall, Mousseau, Ramsay, Torrance, and Polette—all but the last, falling while in the active discharge of their judicial functions. Two have been forced to resign in consequence of ill health—Rainville and Buchanan. This tremendous sweep, in a single province of the Dominion, produces a vivid sense of the shadowy nature of this existence, and shows that we are in truth, to borrow words sometimes lightly used, "bubbles on the rapid stream of time."

Mr. R. A. Ramsay, who died at Montreal, after a short illness, on January 15, was a gentleman who, by great diligence and honorable conduct, had won a very high position in the profession. Without natural gifts of eloquence or striking ability, he showed what could be attained by constant industry and painstaking effort. All that he did was thoroughly done. We remember a remark made by the late Mr. Justice Ramsay a few days before his death, in reference to an argument which had pleased him, by another gentleman of similar standing to Mr. Ramsay—that it was the plodders of the profession who generally accomplished the best work. Mr. R. A. Ramsay was only 42, and it is sad that the community should be deprived of perhaps thirty years of useful and beneficial labour, but his memory will

long live, more especially among the younger members of the profession, for "his conduct is a legacy for all."

In one of the letters of Charles Lamb, he says, "goodness blows no trumpet, nor de-sires to have it blown. We should be "modest for a modest man—as he is for "himself." This is peculiarly applicable to the late Mr. Justice Torrance. He worked faithfully and earnestly, but shrank from any public acknowledgment of his worth. It was pleasing to witness the immense assemblage of the bar at the adoption of the usual resolutions, testifying their appreciation of the sterling qualities of the deceased and regret for his loss, and on the following day, the still larger assemblage that sorrowfully and reverently followed his remains to their last resting place. No Judge that has passed away in late years was so generally loved by the profession. We may live to see a more brilliant successor upon the bench, but it will be long before we shall see one who was so warmly regarded by men of all ages, parties and nationalities.

Under the pressure of many losses, we have omitted to notice particularly the retirement of Mr. Justice Buchanan of the Superior Court. It was rumoured at first that his withdrawal was only temporary, and that after a period of rest he would probably be able to resume the duties of his office. We regret that this information proves to be without foundation, and that Mr. Justice Buchanan has been compelled, by the condition of his health, to place his resignation in the hands of the government. Mr. Buchanan, who was assigned to the district of Bedford, was a judge of great accomplishments and personally very much esteemed. Many of his judgments have appeared in this journal, and bear evidence to his ability as a jurist. He has also sat from time to time in the Court of Review in this city, and his presence will be greatly missed by his colleagues and by the profession generally.

The enormous length of election contestations in this Province elicited some caustic