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Obituary.

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## ALEXANDER LEITH, Q.C.

To many members of the profession the notice of the death in England on the 17th of February last, of Mr. Alexander Leith, Q.C., at the age of 76, will leave little impression, while a considerable but decreasing number of both Bench and Bar will experience a feeling of genuine sorrow at the passing away of a very worthy man and good lawyer. Born in England, he was educated partly there and at the University of Heidelberg, one of his college companions at the University being the late Lord Hannen. Originally intended for the army, having actually received a commission, we believe in the 9th Regiment which he never joined, he changed his mind and came to Canada in the early forties. In 1848 he was admitted as an attorney and was called to the Bar in 1849. For nearly forty years he practised his profession in Toronto, at one time as a member of the firm of Read, Leith & Read, having one of the largest businesses in that place. In all ways a sound lawyer, his knowledge of the law of real property probably exceeded that of any of his contemporaries. While in practice, he published several works on his favorite subject, including the 2nd volume of Blackstone's Commentaries adapted to the law of this Province, a Canadian edition of Williams on Real Property, and a work on the Real Property Statutes. During the latter part of his professional career he largely devoted himself to counsel business in that branch of the law with which he was most familiar. For some years he acted as Law Clerk to the Legislative Assembly, where his knowledge of law and accuracy of expression strongly marked the legislation during his term of office. He was also at one time lecturer on the law of real property in the Law School, Osgoode Hall, and for some time filled the office of President of the School. Some ten years ago, after a residence of nearly fifty years in this country, he returned to England and made his home there, returning now and then to Canada, and once visiting India. Kindly and courteous in disposition and manner, and retaining, among many characteristics of an English gentleman, a fondness for a horse, a gun and a dog, he was a good representative of a type of professional man now fast passing away in this country.

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Flotsam and Jetsam.

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Horace Greeley—he used to tell the story himself—once sent a claim to a western attorney for collection, the attorney to keep half the amount for his fee. After a time Mr. Greeley received the following note from the lawyer:

“Dear sir: I have succeeded in collecting *my half* of the claim. The balance is hopeless.”