

ROSE-BELFORD'S
CANADIAN MONTHLY
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FEBRUARY, 1881.

In Memoriam.

THOMAS MOSS,

CHIEF JUSTICE OF ONTARIO.

Died Jan. 5, 1881, et. 44.

FACILE princeps from thine infancy,
Winning new honours with increasing days,
Yet wearing lightly all thy well-earned bays;
The crowning grace of natures pure and high—
Thy gentleness—disarmed all jealousy!
About thee in our memory there plays
A light not mingled with the lurid rays
Of lust of gain, or power, or victory!
Thy one ambition—that thy work were done
As best to keep the trust thy country gave.
In years when life but half its course hath run,
Thine is complete; for thee no higher wave
Could lift to higher place, more nobly won;
But we can only mourn thine early grave!

Ill can thy country spare a son like thee!
We fain had kept thee many a happy year.
Thy grace of speech, thy judgment quick and clear,
Thy love of truth,—thy firm integrity,
Unquestioned gave the foremost rank to thee
With foremost honour,—never gained by fear
Or hope of favour. Never hostile sneer
Or rumour dared to invade thy purity!