

John W. Ritchie's domestic life hardly comes within the province of the writer, but it may be said to have been almost ideal.

As a rule, in papers such as this, it is not customary to deal more than very briefly with the subject of religion; but Judge Ritchie's case was exceptional. He seems in early life to have taken to heart the lessons taught by his grandmother Johnston, and he was throughout his whole career a practical and devoted Christian. He really "reverenced his conscience as his King." He did not belong to what is known as the "Broad" section of the Church of England, but was a strenuous and sincere supporter of the views held by the administration of St. Paul's Church in this city. Indeed the first occasion on which, as far as I remember, I heard him speak in public was in 1863 when the Chapter of the Third Series of the Revised Statutes "Of the Church of England" was before the Legislative Council. Bishop Binney advocated the claims of the episcopate, which Mr. Ritchie on behalf of the parishioners at St. Paul's and those who felt with them strenuously resisted: The handsome stained glass window and the monument in that Church intended to honor his memory are not misplaced.

While a firm believer in the doctrines of his own faith and strict and scrupulous in the practice of his religion, he was not bigot, was not one who thought that all who did not agree with him were as the Heathen and Publican, and were on the path of perdition.

A touching illustration of this characteristic took place when Judge Ritchie was on his death-bed. An old Irish Catholic, who had for several years been employed in work that brought him to Belmont, was dying at the same time; and the Judge sent a message to him to the effect that he hoped they would soon meet again in a better world.

I conclude, with the expression of my regret at the imperfect nature of this humble tribute to the memory of one who was a great lawyer, an admirable judge, an ideal husband and father, and in the best sense of the words, a Christian gentleman.