

HON. WILLIAM HENRY DRAPER, C.B.

eral, Attorney-General, Puisne Judge and Chief Justice.

"That you may long continue to fill the dignified position which you now hold, is the sincere prayer of the members of the Law Society."

The reply was as follows :

"I thank you very sincerely for this address. Since my first appointment to the bench, it has been my constant effort to cultivate the most friendly relations with the bar, and I feel no slight gratification at my success, as testified by this mark of your approval, in which you mingle the expression of your satisfaction at my past career with a kind wish that I may yet awhile continue to discharge judicial duties. I have, in my turn, to express my warm acknowledgments to the bar, generally, for their universal attention and respect to me in my intercourse with them as a judge, as well as for unnumbered marks of kindness and regard to me individually. If I have attained any success in my efforts to maintain that confidence in the purity of the administration of justice in this Province, which existed in the days of my eminent predecessors, I owe it, first, to the co-operation of those learned judges who shared my labors, and next to the ability and assiduity of the members of the profession whom you represent. Upwards of forty-five years ago I first entered my name on the books of the Law Society, of which I believe I have still the honor to be a bencher; and though I passed some years in the active duties of public life, I never severed myself from the diligent practice of my profession. I rejoice that while sinking into the vale of declining years, I am still thought able to be of use, and that I can maintain the connection which has existed during the best part of my life. I trust that I shall be enabled to pursue the same course which has procured for me this flattering mark of your esteem, and I look forward with a hopeful confidence to a continuance of that support and assistance to which I have been so deeply indebted in my past career."

The name of Chief Justice Draper will appear in the history of Canada, not merely however as a lawyer. He took an intelligent and large interest in the welfare of his adopted country. In his answer to an address presented to him on the occasion of the opening of the new court-house for the county of Norfolk, in the year 1864 (see 10 U. C. L. J. 313)

he said it was not the least proud one of his recollections, that when in political life thirty-three years previously, it was his pleasurable duty to introduce into the Legislature of Canada, at the instance of its originator, and framed by him, the bill which was the foundation of that great code of common school education, which, in the annals of history, would render Dr. Ryerson's name immortal.

In 1857, Mr. Draper, then Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, was appointed by the Canadian Government as a special envoy to England to lay before the Home authorities Canada's rights in connection with the Northwest territories. This appointment was much spoken against by some of the party organs of that day, and Mr. Draper, of course, came in for his share of hard words. It is now, however, we believe, universally admitted not only that the selection was itself the best that could have been made, but that it was also a position which the Chief Justice could honorably accept. That he did accept it was always to us the best proof of this, and time has justified it.

In the year 1854 he received the ribbon of a Companion of the Bath, as a mark of special favor for his services. He was offered knighthood more than once, but declined it.

Mr. Draper was the first President of St. George's Society in Toronto, and also first President of the Toronto Cricket Club, (of which, in subsequent years, his youngest son was a distinguished player.) He was at one time President of the Philharmonic Society. We learn from Mr. Scadding's Toronto of Old, that Mr. Draper presented to the inhabitants of Toronto, on his ceasing to be one of its representatives, a public clock which was placed in the belfry of St. James' Cathedral. This gift, however, was unfortunately destroyed when the church was burned in 1849. He took great interest in later years in the proceedings of the