

In 1868 the country was shocked by the death of one of the brilliant men of the day, the Hon. Thomas D'Arcy McGee, at the hands of his assassin, Whelan, who, being convicted of the murder, applied for a writ of error. Mr. Robinson's successful argument for the Crown in that case was a masterly effort, indicative of his minute and thorough familiarity with criminal law.

In 1875 party politics ran high, and out of this ferment grew the famous political suit of *The Queen v. Wilkinson*, the defendant being the editor of a newspaper in which the serious charge of political intriguing was made against Senator Simpson in connection with what was known as the "Big Push" letter. In connection with this the Hon. George Brown made a violent attack in the *Globe* newspaper upon the late Chief Justice Adam Wilson, then a puisne judge of the Queen's Bench. An application was thereupon made on behalf of Wilkinson, to commit Mr. Brown for contempt of Court. Mr. Robinson and Mr. Henry O'Brien were counsel for the applicant, Mr. Brown conducting his defence in person with his usual force and courage, but repeating and emphasizing and seeking to justify the libellous charges made in his paper. The Court was composed of Chief Justice Harrison and Mr. Justice Morrison, Mr. Justice Wilson taking no part. The language used by Mr. Brown was held to be a reckless and unjustifiable attack on a judge of the Court and a contempt of Court; but, as the judges who heard the case were divided in opinion as to the action to be taken, the rule was dropped. Mr. Robinson's magnificent speech on this occasion will not be forgotten by those who heard it.

In 1884 Mr. Robinson was counsel for the Dominion Government in the arbitration with Manitoba respecting the boundaries of ' ' at province, arguing the case before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. In the next year he had a more serious task in connection with the North-West Rebellion, as senior counsel for the Crown, in the prosecution of Louis Riel for high treason, which resulted in the conviction and execution of that noted rebel. There was an appeal from the verdict to the Court of Queen's Bench of Manitoba. The verdict was sustained and a subsequent appeal to the Privy Council met the same fate. With Mr. Robinson were the late Mr. B. B. Osler, Q.C., and Mr. Burbidge, the present judge of the Exchequer Court of Canada.