

his court, and sound judgment, tempered by a regard for equity as far as was consistent with a correct application of legal principles.

During the May term of the Court of Queen's Bench sitting in appeal at Montreal he was unusually bright, and was not absent an hour during the whole term. He rendered judgment on a number of applications and cases heard during the term, which closed May 27. He remained a little time in chambers attending to various matters, and exhibited to the last his usual cheerfulness and courtesy. That evening, however, he was taken ill, and the malady assumed complications ending in paralysis, of which he died early on the 31st. He retained consciousness to the last, and exhibited in his dying moments the composure and resignation which formed a fitting close to an honourable and well spent life.

At the opening of the June term of the Court of Queen's Bench, Crown side, (June 1), the Hon. Mr. Justice Church made the following reference to the decease of his distinguished colleague:—

*Gentlemen of the Grand Jury*,—I do not propose to do more than organize this court to-day, address a few words to you and then adjourn. The great public loss which, in the providence of God, has fallen upon this community in particular and the people of this Dominion in general in the unexpected death of Sir Antoine Aimé Dorion, Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench, is too recent and too terrible for me or, indeed, for any of the other officers of the court to proceed with the discharge of our duties. Antoine Aimé Dorion is dead and Canada is called upon to mourn the loss of one of her greatest sons. Full of years and full of honors, after a long, busy and useful life, he has been called back to his God to receive, I have no doubt, the well earned greeting, "Well done good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." A long life of useful labor is finished, a long career of trust and honor has been suddenly terminated, a long record of painstaking devotion to duty engraved upon the hearts and memories of the Bench, the Bar and the public is at an end. Called early in life to take part in the political and constitutional struggles which this country

has witnessed, promoted almost at once to a foremost place in these struggles; always devoted, fearless and ready in his work, the records of the old Canadian Parliament and of the Dominion of Canada bear testimony to his assiduity as a parliamentarian and his devotion and ability to the interests of his country. Foremost of the political party with which he was allied, he fought its battles with devotion and skill and won for himself his title of the Bayard of Parliament, *sans peur et sans reproche*. Always learned, courteous and considerate, after twenty years of parliamentary struggle he left that sphere for the judicial bench without one enemy and without one word to rankle in the hearts of his colleagues (adversaries as well as friends) whom he was leaving. For seventeen years Sir A. A. Dorion has filled the position of Chief Justice of this court, and these seventeen years are as a monument to his memory, preserved in the records of the court and enshrined in the hearts and memories of the Bar. Sprung from a generation which furnished to the Bar of this province some of its brightest and best minds, Sir A. A. Dorion was not one whit behind the greatest or the best of them, and when, at a later period and when, perhaps, another generation shall form the estimate of the rank to be assigned to our great lawyers, the name of our beloved Chief Justice will not be found below that of any other. In learning, in assiduity, in gentleness, in consideration for others, in short, in all that goes to make up the good man and the great judge he was unsurpassed. His judgments will remain as a record of his learning, industry and impartiality: and his gentleness and kindness to all, and especially to the youngest and least experienced of the Bar will also remain a lasting testimony to his goodness of heart and of his consideration for the feelings of others; whilst his forbearance and evenness of temper will ever bear witness to a great mind, which had been so skilled in the knowledge of the frailties of human nature that he was always prepared to be tolerant of the shortcomings of others. In the death of Sir Antoine Aimé Dorion the bench of Lower Canada has lost one of the brightest legal minds which ever adorned it, the tableau of