

## The Canada Law Journal.

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### THE JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS.

It is with no ordinary feeling of gratification that we take up the pen to chronicle the appointment of Mr. R. MACKAY, Q.C., and Mr. F. W. TORRANCE, Q.C., to the Bench of the Superior Court. These appointments excited surprise by their very excellence. At a time when the fair fame of the Bench was under a cloud, the elevation of two gentlemen eminently qualified for the office was a thing to be specially desired. The Minister of Justice, in passing by the ranks of mere political adherents, and selecting two gentlemen of great ability, of independent position, sincerely devoted to their profession, profoundly versed in legal science, has entitled himself to the gratitude of the bar. We do not fear to be hereafter called false prophets, in forecasting a noble career for these two judges.

Mr. Justice MACKAY was admitted to the bar on the 20th of December, 1837. He was engaged as counsel before the Seigniorial Commission in 1855; and it is unnecessary to add that he has long enjoyed the reputation of a profound lawyer, an ardent student, and a counsel of the highest rank. His *confreres* have testified their high regard by electing him *Bâtonnier*. His honor never took any active part in political affairs, and did not receive the silk gown till last year. Some of Mr. Justice MACKAY's early contributions to legal literature will be found in the *Revue de Législation et de Jurisprudence*.

Mr. Justice TORRANCE was admitted to the bar on the 26th of June, 1848, and is still young in years. Few, however, have pursued the study of their profession with such constant diligence and singleness of purpose. Mr. Justice TORRANCE has, we believe, filled the chair of Roman Law in the Law faculty of the McGill University since the Faculty was established, and has also during twelve laborious years been one of

the most active contributors to the *Jurist*. He received the appointment of Q.C. at the same time as Mr. Justice MACKAY.

We do not speak at greater length respecting these appointments, because we feel assured that eulogy, however well merited, would be distasteful to the gentlemen concerned; and we are, moreover, aware that we are chiefly addressing those to whom the eminent qualifications of the new judges are perfectly well known.

Of Mr. Justice MONK, who has been translated to the Court of Appeals, it may be said that he has rendered many of the most admirable and best considered judgments ever pronounced in our Courts, and also, perhaps, some of the worst. Possessed of abilities far above the common, of imposing personal appearance, a scholar of some depth and versatility, administering justice with rare good temper blended with dignity—Mr. Justice MONK has been a highly popular judge, notwithstanding the drawback of occasional fits of carelessness. In the dignified leisure of the Queen's Bench, his honor will have more opportunity for the elaboration of judgments, such as have often attracted admiration, even when drawn up by him amid the hurry of the Court below. We look for higher things yet from Mr. Justice MONK, and we feel sure that we shall not be disappointed. To fill worthily the chair of Mr. Justice AYLWIN, one of the greatest of Canadian judges, would be an honor not to be lightly esteemed.

### THE GENERAL COUNCIL.

We have on our table a pamphlet containing the official reports of the General Council of the Bar of Lower Canada. We see reference therein to an amended tariff for the Superior and Circuit Courts, which, we trust, will soon be promulgated. By some oversight, we omitted to notice in a previous issue that on the retirement of Mr. GONZALVE DOUTRE from the office of Secretary-Treasurer of the General Council, he received the honor of a highly eulo-