

THE LATE HON. HENRY BLACK, C. B.

The demise of this distinguished jurist took place on the 16th inst., at Cacouna, where Mr. Black was staying for the benefit of his health. By his death the Canadian Bar has suffered a great loss. He was deeply versed in maritime law and his opinion on legal points of difficulty was held in high esteem by the most eminent members of the profession. The *Ottawa Times* takes the following particulars concerning Mr. Black's career from advance-sheets of Mr. Morgan's forthcoming work, "The Men of the Dominion."

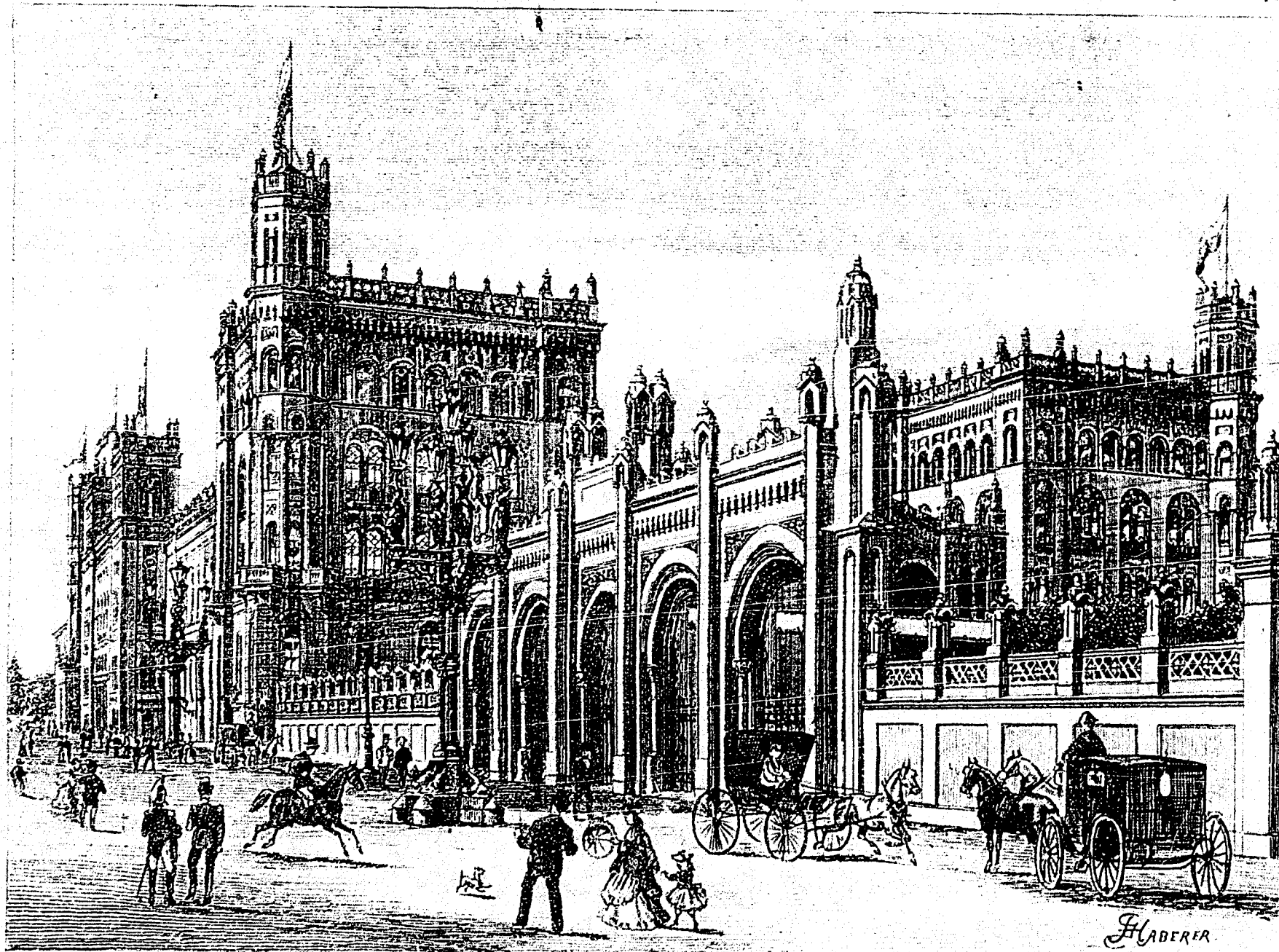
"Mr. Black was born in the city of Quebec, of an Irish mother and a Scotch father. He became a pupil of the late Dr. Wilkie, at whose school the late Mr. Andrew Stuart, Mr. Chief Justice Duval, the late Judge Aylwin, and many other eminent public men received their education. It is said of nations that those periods, during which peace, prosperity and contentment are generally diffused, are barren of events; so of the late Mr. Black, it may be said that his course through life was so unassuming and blameless that it affords no room for criticism, opposition, or even for extended comment. Educated for the Bar, he gave early proofs of the possession of talents of the highest order; and, although he ascended at a bound to the highest rank in his profession, he, through the modesty and gentleness of his demeanour, disarmed envy. No man ever more thoroughly possessed the gift of making friends, nor can the writer of these lines, who knew him long and well, recall a single act on the part of Mr. Black, which could have provoked animosity. Mr. Black had not been long at the Bar before he was retained in many cases of importance. Amongst others he undertook to submit to the judgment of



THE LATE JUDGE BLACK.

the Court of King's Bench the claim of the then Judge of the Court of Vice-Admiralty to exact fees. The functionary (the late Hon. James Kerr) who received "a salary in lieu of fees," had long levied a heavy and onerous tax upon the shipping, and Mr. Black eventually compelled him, by legal means, to be content with his salary. In the infancy of the Colony; at a time when constitutional maxims were ignored or evaded, and when all men clothed with authority, but more especially all Judges, were omnipotent and irresponsible, this was a result only to be achieved by the exhibition of great courage, ability and perseverance; and the inhabitants of Quebec marked their appreciation of Mr. Black's service by presenting him with a service of plate. When, upon the suspension of the Constitution of Lower Canada, it was deemed expedient to constitute, of the leading men of the Province a Special Council, Mr. Black could not be overlooked, and he obtained in that body the consideration due to his virtues and capacity. Upon the Union he became a member for his native city in the first Parliament, and the country owes to him all the improvement in the Criminal Law, properly called after him, "the Black Acts"—an inestimable benefit.

Upon the dismissal of the late Hon. James Kerr, Mr. Black, designated by the public voice, as the fittest man for the office, received the unconditional appointment of Judge Surrogate of the Court of the Vice-Admiralty. In that situation he gained golden opinions from all kinds of men. His countrymen, the Anglo-Canadians of Quebec, a class previously neglected to a certain extent, were especially proud of him. They, at that time, justly considered him as their head; and as disproving by the whole tenor of his life, the European assumption of intel-



VIENNA.—THE RAILWAY STATION, VIENNA.