

Bench and Bar.

OBITUARY

HIS HONOUR JUDGE BENSON.

The towns of Cobourg and Port Hope and their counties have suffered a great loss by the death of Thomas Moore Benson, formerly Judge of the County Court of the United Counties of Northumberland and Durham, whose funeral took place at Port Hope on December 17th, 1915.

Mr. Benson was born at Port Hope on November 25th, 1833. He studied law in the office of the late Sir Adam Wilson, and was called to the Bar in 1859, and practised his profession in his native town. He was elected a Bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada in 1871, and was made a Q.C. in 1880. He was a diligent and intelligent student and at one time acted as reporter in Chambers for this JOURNAL, and occasionally contributed to its columns.

In 1861, at the time of the Trent affair, he formed a company of volunteers, subsequently holding a commission in the regiment raised by the late Lieut.-Col. A. T. H. Williams at the time of the Fenian Raid. He was afterwards given its command when Lt.-Col. Williams was promoted. At this time he took a first-class certificate at the Military School in Toronto.

In September, 1882, he was appointed Deputy Judge of the United Counties of Northumberland and Durham, becoming Senior Judge on November 8th, 1887.

Mr. Benson always took an active part in the affairs of the Church of England, in connection with the Synod and other activities. He was also a member of the Council of Wycliffe College and a Director of Ridley College at St. Catharines. He was, as might be supposed, a strong Imperialist and a loyal subject, as well as a loyal friend to those who had the privilege of knowing him.

A graceful tribute was paid to his memory by the Rev. Mr. Elliott at his funeral. We quote a portion of his address on that occasion. After referring to the strength and force of his character, he said: "He had learned the power, the justice and the joy of gentleness. Meeting him as a stranger the first deep impression was his wonderful, his charming courtesy, and as you grew to know him intimately I think your feeling was that of surprise at the power of that gentleness over your own life. Courtesy to him was not a garment to be put on and removed as the occasion might seem to demand, but it was an essential part