

We may say of Parkin what was said of Lachaud : "In his hands a criminal affair was only a vulgar, common-place affair ; its physiognomy was changed, You did not only see the crimes, the criminal, and the horror he inspired, but you also recognized in this criminal a human being, agitated like others with human passions. Each case then became a romance, an acted drama, and the lawyer was the one who staged it."

Parkin's triumphs were great and many. They never, however, had any influence on his good nature. Those who knew him must remember his animation, his good fellowship, his Athenian spirit, and his modesty, which made him so natural and amiable. How can I describe Parkin better than quoting the appreciation of his contemporaries even after his death. Here is the resolution adopted by the Bar, which was proposed by Mr. Hearn, and seconded by the late Judge Holt : "That in the death of the late John Buckworth Parkin, Q.C., the members of the Bar have to deplore the loss of an accomplished and courteous gentleman, whose high professional position was honourably won by the fullness of his learning and independence, skill, and brilliancy with which he discharged the duties of a great lawyer."

This beautiful testimony is well merited. I have tried to retrace the life of this clever lawyer, but I remain far from accomplishing my task. Happily for me, His Honor the Lieutenant Governor (Sir Adolph Chapleau,) who for a long time was the Prince of Orators at the Bar, has honored us with his presence and gives to my feeble words more authority. He knew this vigorous athlete better than I, he fought in the same arena, where he, himself, carried away so many laurels before politics robbed him from the profession. He can complete what I have omitted. Many years will pass, before, in our Bar, though there are so many who shine so brilliantly, that Parkin's place will be filled again. Where, in fact, can this supple and flexible talent be found ? capable of talking all tones, and which knew how to lend its language to all elevated or inferior interests, to all causes from those that touch with propriety to those dramas which show up all the weakness, passions and miseries of the human heart. I feel as if I were abusing your kind attention, and yet what an imperfect sketch of such great talent. Others will complete this and say how with the jealous care of the privileges of a lawyer, he allied at all times the profoundest respect for the Magistrature. Others will tell of his charming spirit, agreeable manner. When we evoke the remembrance of these great names which have honored our society and makes us love our profession all the more.

Let us love this beautiful and noble profession. Let it be for us not only an occasion to spend our life, but also a field where we can exercise the modest faculties with which Providence has favored us. It gives to those who devote themselves to it, the consideration and public esteem and it can even give glory.