

testimony of those who recognize the value of fidelity and courage, as well as ability, in the discharge of important public functions. It is worthy of note that Mr. Gowan was the youngest man ever entrusted with Her Majesty's Commission as a Judge,* and this fact may explain the energy and working powers he retained up to the moment of his retirement, for his present age could not preclude the idea of years of further usefulness,—indeed his retirement took many by surprise.† He had no doubt undergone trying hardships in the early settlement of the new district to which he was appointed, and to which a man with a less elastic constitution would have succumbed.‡

* "Canadian Biographical Dictionary," page 26; "Canadian Portrait Gallery," vol. 3; "Morgan's Canadian Directory" of 1878; "The Irishman in Canada."

† "The announcement of the retirement of Judge Gowan took every one by surprise, on Friday and Saturday it was the absorbing topic of conversation in public places," says the *Gazette* of 3rd Oct., 1883. "The general topic of conversation in town * * was his Honor Judge Gowan's resignation, the announcement of which was sudden and unexpected. It was anticipated His Honor would seek a milder climate for the winter, as his health has been the reverse of robust for the past year or so. It seems, however, that Judge Gowan prefers to resign an office he has held so long and filled with such singular ability for the past forty years that not a single important decision of his has ever been overruled."—*Examiner* of 4th Oct., 1883.

‡ Living himself after his appointment in a new district, the only means of locomotion—a saddle horse or one's own stout legs—for the position of a judge "was attended in those days with a good many inconveniences which have disappeared with advancing civilization.