

Hon. Edward Blake, K.C., the famous lawyer and orator, at one time Minister of Justice and occupying an outstanding position in Canadian politics; but, in the later years of his life, a member of the British House of Commons, sitting for South Longford in the interests of the Irish Nationalist party.

The subject of this notice did not long remain in business, but after an experience of it for four years, entered the office of his uncle the late Mr. Justice Connor, as a student of the law; and it was not long before the wisdom of this change was manifested. His tireless industry, his capacity for acquiring a sound knowledge of legal principles and mastering the technicalities of practice, combined with a remarkably retentive memory, great facility of expression, worded in forceful language, pointed to a man destined to make his mark in the profession in which his elder brother had already taken such a distinguished place. He was called to the Bar in 1860, practising in Toronto in his brother's firm.

It is not unusual in speaking of the career of a successful lawyer to refer to some of the causes célèbres in which he was engaged. In Mr. Blake's case, however, this would be a lengthy and profitless task, for he was sought by one side or another in most of the great legal battles of his day, for he was a successful and masterful advocate, essentially a fighter, and always found in the forefront of the fight. It will, rather, be desirable to endeavour to record for the interest of those who come after him some of the characteristics of perhaps the most forceful and eloquent of the strong men who have adorned the Bar of Canada during the last half century. Whatever his strong points or his failings as an advocate may have been, what he did and said was done and said by one who was strong, fearless and aggressive; often not too gentle, but behind his force and often his sarcasm and severity, there was a generous heart. It seemed strange that a man who was really so kind and lovable could exhibit so much acerbity in controversy. Perhaps this fact can best be accounted for by his extreme earnestness.

In 1872 Mr. Blake (a strong Liberal) was appointed by the