



Dr. Baldwin survived till 1844, held in the highest esteem by all, except possibly for a time before, during and after the Rebellion. Always an advocate of Responsible Government, he became involved in the schemes of Mackenzie and the Radicals. He did not go with Mackenzie all the way, drawing the line at rebellion. It is perhaps not impossible that he would have joined them had they been successful, but, as it was, he took no part in the armed rising. It cannot, however, be said that he was successful in banishing the suspicions of all.

He was Treasurer of the Law Society 1811-1815; 1820-1821; 1824-1828; 1832-1836: he superintended the building of Osgoode Hall, and was a most active member of Convocation.

It is at least interesting to know that about a hundred years ago it was considered "the thing" for the highest law officer of the Crown the official head of the Bar, and the head of the Law Society,¹⁵ openly to fight a duel, admittedly a crime, which in a fatal case would be considered murder.¹⁶

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¹⁵ In a letter to Hon. Robert Baldwin, February 13th, 1849, J. E. Small, Treasurer of the Law Society, speaks of Dr. Baldwin thus: "One of the oldest and most respected members of the Profession and who might with much truth be styled the father of the Society in Upper Canada." June 4th, 1850, J. G. Spragge, Treasurer (afterwards Chancellor and Chief Justice of Ontario), writing to Hon. Robert Baldwin, speaks thus: "The long honoured Treasurer, whom we regarded not only as Treasurer of the Law Society, but in some sort as a Father of the Profession of which we were most of us junior members."

¹⁶ Most of the facts of this duel are derived from a letter from Dr. Baldwin to Serjt, Firth, dated April 22nd, 1812, now in the Ontario Archives.

Dr. Baldwin is said to have had at least one other duel—equally innocuous—arising from a dispute between him and other counsel at *nisi prius*. I have not been able to verify this by a contemporary account, and I think it an error. Col. John Prince, of Sandwich, also a member of the Bar, is credited with a number of duels, but I can find no contemporary account of any of them. Our Bar has always had its complement of fighters.