

The inception of the Law Society was under an Act passed 9th July, 1797, by which gentlemen practising at the Colonial Bar were authorized to form themselves into a society, "as well for the purpose of establishing order among themselves as for the purpose of securing to the Province and the profession of a learned and honourable body, to assist their fellow students as occasion may require, and to support and maintain the constitution of the said Province."

Then followed a meeting of practitioners at the Capital of the Province, now called Niagara, then Newark, as appears by the following minute:—

Newark, July 17, 1797.

In obedience to the direction of an Act passed this session in the Parliament of the Province, the following gentlemen assembled in Wilson's Hotel, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon of the above day:—John White, A.G., Angus Macdonell, Christopher Robinson, William D. Powell, Nicholas Hagerman, Robert D. Gray, S.G., James Clark, Allan McLean, Alexander Stewart, R. C. Beardsley.

Mr. Christopher Robinson was father of the future Chief Justice, Mr. Powell became Chief of the Queen's Bench. Mr. Hagerman was father of Judge Christopher A. Hagerman.

By the Act of 1822, 2 Geo. IV., c. 5, "The Treasurers and Benchers of the Law Society" were formally incorporated; and under these and other statutes the Society has continued to be governed by a board of Benchers in like manner as the Law Societies of England. Under Revised Statutes of Ontario, c. 172, 1897, the Benchers are, exclusive of ex-officio members, elected by the Bar, the ex-officio consisting of the Attorney-General of the Dominion for the time being, if a member of the Bar of Ontario, and all members of the Bar of Ontario who now hold,