

FOREWORD

A WORK such as this requires of a "Foreword" little by way of explanation or introduction. Though not, like Cromwell's Warrant, written "in plain characters enough," yet its contents carry their own explanation and justification.

The law is built upon preserved memorials, and while portraits of those who are administering the law of the present, and at the same time shaping the law of the future, may add nothing to the structure itself, they do add to the interest with which that structure is to be seen and studied.

The Reports record the work of our judges, of our counsel, and to some extent of our solicitors, but those practical volumes afford no place for the portraits of their real authors. That lack, the present volume to some extent, seeks to supply.

Osgoode Hall contains splendid canvas bearing the countenances of the Justices who have made the administration of the law in the Province of Ontario famous and respected, yet such paintings are necessarily limited in scope and number. Such a volume as this not only preserves the portraits of great men who have passed away, but it gives opportunity for the reproduction of the features of all those who labor together in the legal field. For who shall say which is the greater—where each works at the same time and towards the same end—though the opportunity of one be larger than the opportunity of another?

The records of the Bench and Bar of Ontario are unsurpassed. The profession has been crowded with broad minds and intelligent men since the Act of 1794 authorized the Governor to license advocates and attorneys in the newly-born Province; and since 1822 when the "Treasurers and Benches