

excited such a storm of disapprobation among the bar and the sciologists of the press. I have reason to believe that my view of the right disposal of that vessel is confirmed by the Crown Officers in England.

Case law in his estimation was a subordinate consideration, not that the study of cases should be neglected but the foremost place must be given to those fundamental rules and principles which govern the decisions. He is said to have been a great power with the juries. He was a clear, forcible and impressive speaker, and generally succeeded in impressing on them the convictions of his own mind in the cases he advocated. While a successful jury lawyer he commanded great weight with the court. We have no reports of the cases he tried and argued and must therefore depend on his general reputation. This reputation is confirmed by his speeches in the House of Assembly and by the judgments which he pronounced from the Bench of which a small number are to be found in the reports and in the Press of the day.

His standing as an able, and successful barrister, and as a professional man in the County being well established, his attention was next called to public affairs. Parties were not then divided as now. When he entered the political arena representatives to the Legislature were much more chosen on their merits apart from their political leanings. He first became a candidate and was elected to the House of Assembly for the County of Cumberland at the general election of 1826, and was also returned for the same County at the two succeeding elections. In the year 1837 he was appointed to the Legislative Council of which body he continued a member until his appointment to the Bench in 1846. His elections were severely contested, and on the last occasion he barely succeeded in retaining his seat.

Judged by the course he adopted and followed from his first entrance into the Legislature, Stewart must be classed as a reformer, and liberal in his views. He strenuously attacked the abuses which in his opinion existed, and was foremost in ad-