

**HON. JOHN HAWKINS HAGARTY, CHIEF JUSTICE OF  
ONTARIO.**

BY RICHARD ARMSTRONG.

IN 1834, when Muddy York became no more and the goodly city of Toronto took its place, a young Irishman just in his eighteenth year, a type of his country in wit and geniality of nature and brilliancy of attainments, made the new born city his home. Much does Toronto owe to the sons of the Emerald Isle, and kindly does she appreciate them, but possibly there is no one who so rapidly ingratiated himself as the brilliant son of Matthew Hagarty, examiner of his Majesty's Court of Prerogative for Ireland. When John Hawkins Hagarty, a tall slim lad, entered upon the study of law in 1835 there were many, even physicians, who were ready to assert that he would never live to much maturer years and even refused to pass him for insurance, and it would seem that these expectations stood in some chance of verification, for we find during Michaelmas term, 5 Victoria, on an application made by Mr. Hagarty to be sworn in as an attorney that one year of his apprenticeship was spent out of the country, for owing to the despairing state of his health, he had returned to Dublin, the city of his birth, to rest and recuperate. Having been sworn in he immediately commenced the practice of his profession. He was engaged in a great variety of cases, where he might be said to have achieved almost immediate success.

In Trinity term, 7 Victoria, he held briefs in the following cases: Larned v. McRoe, a maritime case involving a large amount; City Bank v. Lee, re Malcolm Gillespie an alleged bankrupt, and Cullen v. Price, and was opposed by Harrison, Blake, Baldwin and Cameron as counsel in these various cases.

When we glance over the records and see a man but in his second year at the bar, in such cases, and opposed by the leading counsel of the day, we can but wonder when we remember the lean stripling, a youth in appearance, not half way on his second score. What merit had this man to so readily outstrip his fellows? Rather say what had he not. With judgment quick, keen and penetrating, as his sinewy nervous frame would indicate, with brilliancy and solidity of intellect attained by few, we have a mental equipment that stood him in good stead in his busy and progressive life for a man even of the exceptional ability and the high principles of the now Chief Justice, had to keep his armour bright, for from the time he was called to the bar until he honored the silk, in 1850, he took his place and won his way to fame with Blake, Baldwin, Cameron, Draper, Eccles, Read and Sullivan for competitors. But we should, indeed, be amiss if we did not give full credit to those other forces which made him irresistible before a jury and powerful before the