

this strong, masterful, Latin-Saxon name that had been pronounced by generations of holy men at the baptismal font on young shoots of the house of Blake. And this is the great Canadian's full name. On the rolls of Upper Canada College you will find him entered as Dominick Edward Blake. On the lists of graduates of Toronto University Dominick Edward Blake is recorded as having taken his degree of B. A. in 1854, and that of M. A. four years later. Just when he dropped the Dominick and why does not appear.

William Hume Blake's experiences on his Middlesex farm were the experiences of hundreds of gentlemen emigrants before his time and hundreds since. He found that life on a bush farm was uncongenial to himself, intolerable to his cultured wife and promised nothing attractive for the posterity, the first of whom had already adventured into the tangled wilderness. Like hundreds he had made a mistake—a landed proprietor in a rude new land was not like a landed proprietor in the British Isles. But like the other hundreds he did not propose to sit down and let the waves of fate roll over him. He proposed to swim. He had a good education: he had already studied medicine and divinity and now proposed to take up the study of law. That he had not miscalculated his powers is proved by the fact that the misfit Middlesex bush farmer became subsequently the framer of the Canadian Court of Chancery, and later the presiding judge of his creation, or in other words Chancellor of Ontario.

His sons inherit from him their eloquence, their public spirit and rectitude of conduct, for by all three was he distinguished.

As a pupil young Dominick, or let us call him Edward, was somewhat discursive and careless. In his fourteenth year however he accompanied his father on a journey to the old lands. It was the year 1848, when

all over Europe the blind spirit of democracy was stirring about the walls of its prison-house. There were tumults in Vienna, in Berlin, and in Rome. England had her Chartist disturbances, and altogether it was a gloomy time for hereditary princes and established authority. Whatever influences this journey had on young Edward may best be guessed by the fact that when he returned to his studies he exhibited a burning fervor and industry which became characteristic of the youth and has remained the badge of the man.

After graduating he undertook the study of law and subsequently began its practice in company with his brother Samuel. Although sons of the Chancellor these young men had to fight their own way to the front. Many old citizens of Toronto remember them occupying a suite of meagrely furnished offices in what were known as Wellington Chambers on the north-east corner of Jordan and Melinda streets. We are told that in his early cases Edward Blake experienced a decided diffidence in addressing the Court and therefore usually gave the counsel work to others. It will be admitted that he has got bravely over this timidity. The thought recalls the scene in the Supreme Court at Ottawa two years ago when the greatest lawyers in the Dominion were gathered together on one case. The question to be argued was the right of the Manitoba government to charter railways running to the boundary line. Besides Mr. Blake, the lawyers present were Sir Oliver Mowat, Messrs. Dalton McCarthy, Christopher Robinson, Joseph Martin, Francois Langelier. Among the spectators were some well known lawyers, notably, Hon. Wm. McDougall. It is no derogation of the capacity of his brother lawyers to state what was a fact—that Mr. Blake, in that great forensic display, o'ertopped them as does a mountain peak the foot-hills at its base.