

now in the place of their dear mother, for I knew well her wishes, plans and hopes for her children. Her great principle was to exact from them implicit obedience, and those who were old enough at her death evinced by their conduct the benefit they derived from her discipline."

For many years after this somewhat indirect mention, there is not, as far as I know, any written or printed record dealing with the history of John W. Ritchie. I have learned from a member of his immediate family that he did not go to college, but was educated at home under the care of tutors provided by his father. As to this point, I made a mistake in stating in the memorial appended to the seventh volume of our Collections, that Mr. Ritchie was educated at the Pictou Academy. His brother William did study at that excellent and well known school.

In due course, he was articled as a clerk to his Uncle James W. Johnston, and, after the usual term of service, was admitted as an attorney of the Supreme Court on the twenty-fifth of January 1831 and as a Barrister on the twenty-fourth of the same month in the following year.

For some time clients were exceedingly few; and Judge Ritchie told me that for ten years after his admission to the bar he had had almost no practice. Wiser than most young lawyers, he devoted his abundant leisure "to patient and thorough study of the law. The result of this quiet work, combined with great business capacity and a most honorable and upright character, was that, when practice came it found him admirably prepared, and increased rapidly, so that in a comparatively short time he took his place amongst the leaders of the profession."

At the general election held in November 1836, young Ritchie was a candidate with W. H. Roach for the County of Annapolis. Their opponents were, William Holland of Wilmot and Frederick A. Robicheau of Clare; and, notwithstanding the personal popularity of Mr. Roach, who had repre-