

executive aggression, which forbade that anyone should be put upon his trial for an alleged criminal offence, till, at least, twelve of his peers had endorsed the necessity of so doing, can be safely and wisely replaced by an officer named by the executive of the day, and removeable at its will. I have had occasion for upwards of a quarter of a century to observe grand juries, and the result of my observation is that, in my opinion, any attempt to suppress them or to replace the grand jury by an executive nominee would be as unwise as it would, perhaps, be dangerous to our liberties. The true remedy for the cavilling against grand juries, in my opinion, is to be found in an intelligent devotion to duty upon the part of the grand jurors themselves, and a full conception of the dignity and importance of the office. Let grand jurors realize that they and each of them represents the judicial district, that the public institutions, such as the jail, the lunatic asylums, and the reformatories, are under his official surveillance, that the efficient administration of the police laws, the health laws, the licensing laws, and, in a measure, of the municipal laws, are under his guardianship; that he with his colleagues can present any matter of public concern to the court, and through the court to the executive of the country, and he will at once see how potent for usefulness is the institution which he with his colleagues administers."

THE LATE CHIEF JUSTICE DORION.

Sir Antoine Aimé Dorion, Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench for the Province of Quebec, who died at Montreal, May 31, 1891, after an illness of only three days, was born on the 17th of January, 1818, at Ste. Anne de la Perade, P.Q. His father the late P. A. Dorion, represented Champlain in the Lower Canada Assembly from 1830 to 1838. His mother's father, the late P. Bureau, sat for St. Maurice in the same body from 1820 to 1834. He had six brothers several of whom filled prominent positions, one of them, V. P. W. Dorion, being appointed to the Bench of the Superior Court on the 8th October, 1875.

The late Chief Justice was educated at Nicolet College, was called to the Bar in January, 1842, and entered the firm of Chénier & Dorion. He very soon occupied a distinguished position at the Bar, and also assumed an active part in political life. He was a member of the Canadian Assembly, representing Montreal from 1854 until the general election in 1861, and subsequently Hochelaga from 1862 until Confederation. After the union of the provinces in 1867 he continued to represent Hochelaga until the general election in 1872, when he was returned for Napierville, and represented that county until his elevation to the Bench on the 1st June, 1874.

In the course of his political career he was a member of the Executive Council of Canada from 2nd to 4th August, 1858; from 24th May, 1862 to 27th January, 1863, and again from the 16th May, 1863, until the 29th March, 1864. During these periods he held the office of Commissioner of Crown Lands from 2nd to 4th August, 1858; Provincial Secretary from May, 1862, to January 1863; Attorney General of Lower Canada and co-leader of the Government (with Hon. J. S. Macdonald as Premier) from May 1863 to March 1864. On the advent of the Liberal party to power in November, 1873, he was appointed Minister of Justice of the Dominion, but some months later, on the 1st June, 1874, he resigned that office in order to accept the vacant position of Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench for this Province. Several times he has been called to act as temporary administrator of the government of the Province owing to the illness or absence of Lieutenant-Governors.

Mr. Dorion was always in active practice at the Bar, his firm of Dorion & Dorion, and afterwards Dorion, Dorion, & Geoffrion, being one of the most prominent in the city of Montreal. In 1863 he was appointed a Queen's Counsel.

After his elevation to the Bench, an appointment which was accepted on all hands with the utmost satisfaction, he filled the position of Chief Justice for seventeen years, during which time he was distinguished for accurate legal knowledge, painstaking examination of the cases which came before