

WE regret to have to record the death of Mr. Justice Henry, of the Supreme Court of Canada, at Ottawa, on the third instant. He had been suffering from an attack of paralysis for some weeks, and, notwithstanding occasional signs of improvement, continued to grow worse until death came. The life of the deceased judge was a long and eventful one. He was born at Halifax, N.S., in 1816, so that he was in his 72nd year. He was called to the bar of his native province in 1840, and, from that time until his death, he has almost constantly served his country in some public capacity. Shortly after his call to the bar he served in the Legislative Assembly as member for Sydney, which he continued to represent until 1867, when his support of the proposed confederation scheme cost him his seat. For several years he also held the office of Mayor of Halifax. During these years, notwithstanding his arduous public services, he rapidly gained distinction in his profession. He became a member of the Legislative Council, and was the active promoter of several legal reforms. His measure for chancery reform was the first step in that direction in any English-speaking community. He was for some time Solicitor-General of Nova Scotia, but finally separated from his old colleagues of the Liberal party, with which party he had always identified himself, on the question of the Catholic disabilities. The Opposition gained office, and Mr. Henry became Solicitor-General in the new Government. He acted for Nova Scotia as a delegate on several important missions, amongst others at Washington, whither he went to secure a renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854; at London, to urge on the Imperial Government the necessity of constructing the Intercolonial Railway; and also as a member of the convention which laid the foundation of confederation. He was appointed to the Supreme Court of the Dominion thirteen years ago. His long, active, and eventful life was devoted to the service of his country. His death leaves a vacant place in the ranks of the many gifted men who have come from our Maritime Provinces to take part in working out to a successful issue the destinies of this Dominion.

We are pleased to learn that McGill University has conferred the degree of D.C.L. on Mr. J. J. Maclaren, of this city. We congratulate Dr. Maclaren on the richly merited honour of which he has been the recipient. The degree was obtained in course, the learned doctor having been for some years a B.C.L., of McGill University. The thesis which Mr. Maclaren wrote preparatory to the degree treats of Roman Law in English Jurisprudence. It goes back to the days of the Roman occupation of Britain, and the time of Saxon and Danish rule. In these times the traces of Roman law are found chiefly in the manorial system, in municipal institutions, and in the law of wills and donations. The period of the Norman Conquest is more fully dealt with, and the names of Glanville, Bracton, Fleta, and Britton, occupy a prominent place in this portion of the narrative. The influence of the civil law on the common law is, of necessity, treated only in brief outline, as also the Court of Chancery, which has often been described as "Roman to the backbone." We give the conclusions at which Dr. Maclaren has arrived, in his own words:—