

RECENT JUDICIAL CHANGES.

his lamented predecessor. He has well earned his promotion. The feeling of the Bar on the subject was plainly evinced by the congratulations he received at the various county towns where he held Court on his recent circuit; in fact, his progress was a sort of triumphal procession, judging from the numerous addresses presented to him and the dinners given in his honor. It would be almost presumption for us to speak at length of one with whose merits the profession are so well acquainted, and of whom we can say nothing that is not known to all. We shall, therefore, content ourselves with re-echoing the sentiments expressed by Mr. Bethune, Q. C., who, as senior counsel present on the occasion of his taking his seat on the opening of the Court of Appeal, tendered him the congratulations of the Bar. Mr. Bethune said:

"Before proceeding with the business of the Court, I desire, on behalf of the Bar, to offer Your Lordship our congratulations on your elevation to the high office in which you are now placed. We all regret, in common I am sure with Your Lordship, the event which rendered vacant the place you now occupy. The late Chief Justice—a distinguished judge, an able lawyer, and a splendid man—had endeared himself to all of us. Whilst regretting his early death, it gives us the greatest possible pleasure now to bear testimony to the great reputation which your Lordship attained as Chancellor in the Court of Chancery, and we now desire to express the hope that Your Lordship may be spared many years to preside over this Court and, if possible, add to that reputation."

The Chief Justice in reply said:

"I esteem it a great honor to receive this address on behalf of such a body of gentlemen as the Bar of Ontario, not only as a mark of personal regard to myself, but also as indicating the kindly feelings which have always existed, not alone between myself and the Bar, but between the Bench and the Bar generally; a feeling on which we may well congratulate ourselves, as it not only makes the administration of justice more pleasant, but also, no doubt, conduces to its due administration in this Province. I join heartily with you in what you have said with

reference to the learned and able gentleman who occupied the place which I am now called upon to fill. I believe him to have been all you have described, and an able and upright judge in everything on which he was called to adjudicate. I feel I ought not to omit to allude to the other gentlemen who have preceded me in the office I now hold. The first was the Honorable Sir John Beverley Robinson, who has been well called the Mansfield of Canada, and after him the learned and able Chief Justice Draper. Nor ought I to forget those who have preceded me in the Court I have just left. The first Chancellor was the late Hon. Mr. Blake. He was well chosen as a fit and proper person to mould and fashion the new system of jurisprudence, after the change from one to three Judges on the Bench. He labored earnestly and wisely in what was then successfully accomplished. He and Mr. Van-koughnet who succeeded him, did their best, I am sure, that above all things no suitor in the court should suffer by fault or negligence of theirs. Nothing gratified me more during my late circuit than to learn the position now occupied by the Court of Chancery compared with the position it occupied at first, when it was looked upon by suitors with prejudice and distrust. It is now regarded as the redresser of wrongs, and as giving remedy, where no other remedy exists. With regard to the Bar, I know of no body of men who more appreciate real probity and what is justly right and honorable than the Bar of Ontario."

We turn now from the head of the judiciary of Ontario who has grown grey in the service of his country to the appointment of his successor on the Chancery Bench. We do so with feelings of pleasure of no ordinary kind. The promotion of Mr. John A. Boyd, Q. C., has met with unqualified approval from the bar and the country. The new Chancellor is known to all as a courteous gentleman and a favorite in the profession, a scholar of high attainments, an accomplished lawyer, gifted with an eminently judicial cast of mind, and, above all, one whose high moral excellence is all that could be wished for in one who holds a position which none should fill but those