

THE LATE CHIEF JUSTICE MOSS.

jurisprudence—a branch of instruction strangely wanting in our Provincial scheme of liberal culture. At the first meeting of Convocation, he was unanimously elected, by his fellow-graduates, to the post of chairman, and he died whilst occupying both offices—one in the gift of the Senate, the other voluntarily offered by his brethren of the University. It is gratifying to hear that the Senate has determined to establish a permanent memorial of the Chief Justice in the form of a scholarship; still more gratifying to record that his sons, so early bereft of their distinguished father, are to be adopted as foster-children of the University of which he was so conspicuous an ornament.

Mr. Moss entered upon the study of the law in the office of Messrs. Crooks & Cameron almost immediately after his graduation; and, on a dissolution of their partnership remained with Mr. Hector Cameron, whose partner he became in 1861, on his call and admission. Thereafter he entered into partnership with the Hon. James Patton and Mr. (now Judge) Osler, and subsequently with the late Chief Justice Harrison, the firm being known as Harrison, Osler & Moss. The future Chief Justice's abilities as an equity barrister were recognized by his appointment in 1871 as Equity Lecturer for the Law Society; in 1872 he was made a Q. C. by Sir John Macdonald, and during the same year declined the offer of a Vice-Chancellorship. Mr. Moss had the advantage of being thoroughly grounded in Chancery procedure; but he was also attracted to the study of common law—a necessary condition of success in equity practice. Unconsciously, perhaps, he was preparing himself for the loftier position which awaited him.

Meanwhile, political life, for a brief period, engaged him. What he might have accomplished in Parliament had he surrendered himself entirely to public affairs, it would be hazardous to conjecture; certainly he left the arena with some reluctance at the last. Mr.

Moss was elected to the Commons for West Toronto in 1873, and re-elected in 1874. Shortly after the latter victory he was appointed a Judge of the Court of Appeal, and bade adieu for ever to the hazardous vicissitudes of parliamentary life. On the death of Chief Justice Draper he became President of the Court, and upon the demise of Chief Justice Harrison, became Chief Justice of Ontario.

In casting a rapid retrospect over the Chief Justice's career upon the bench, the first feature which strikes one is the indefatigable industry and brilliant versatility of his Lordship. Few British judges can boast, within the narrow limit of six years, a range of judicial experience so varied in character, or of a discharge of public duty more thoroughly painstaking and conscientious. Those who knew him merely as a friend of courteous and affable manner will perhaps cherish the notion that care and business sat lightly upon him. Nothing certainly could be wider from the truth. In this respect he bore a notable resemblance to the lamented Lord Chief Justice of England. His grace, ease of manner and geniality in social intercourse, only veiled an immense capacity for solemn and earnest work. Wherever duty called him, and it was sometimes unconscionable in its demands upon his strength, he was found ready at the allotted post; and whatever he essayed to do, he did it with his might. At trials of election petitions, in criminal *causes celebres*, at Nisi Prius, in Chambers, or in Banco, he never shirked responsibility or marred his work by slovenly execution. We have referred to his powers of mental insight into principles; on the bench he found them of essential service. The Chief Justice at once struck the key-note of the case before him; yet he did not improvise law for the occasion. Having got at the heart of the mystery, he at once fortified himself by authorities which he examined and appraised in the most delicately adjusted intellectual balance. No one could detect more clearly where a pre-