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By the death of Mr. George Theodore Berthon a distinguished artist has been removed from our midst; and, as many specimens of his skill adorn the library and corridors of Osgoode Hall, it is not out of place that some reference to his demise should appear in these columns.

Mr. Berthon was the son of a noted artist, who was Painter in Ordinary to the great Napoleon; he was born in Vienna in 1806, and came to Canada in 1841. His father intended him to embrace the medical profession, but the artistic instincts of the son were too strong to be overcome, and he devoted himself to the profession of a portrait painter. His ability as an artist was soon recognized in his adopted country; and although the patrons of art were not numerous, yet Mr. Berthon had the field, such as it was, pretty much to himself.

The long line of portraits of distinguished lawyers which have come from his easel during the past fifty years will prove an enduring and highly-prized memorial of his skill. Perhaps one of the happiest efforts of his brush is that of the late Chief Justice Sir Matthew Cameron, who was, we believe, a warm personal friend of the artist.

The skill which, by many years of faithful and patient endeavor, Mr. Berthon acquired in his profession he retained to the last, and his latest works will be found to bear favorable comparison with any of his earlier productions.

Those who had the privilege of knowing Mr. Berthon personally will regret the loss of a warm-hearted, modest, unassuming friend. The brush of some other artist must now be called into requisition at Osgoode Hall, but we doubt whether any successor will be found again to fill the post so acceptably for so long a period as that over which Mr. Berthon's portrait gallery extends.

DRUNKENNESS AND CRIME.

In a late issue of *The Times* appears a correspondence on the above subject, between Sir Henry James, Q.C., and Sir Lyon Playfair. The latter, referring to the statement that "apparently contradictory judgments are given by eminent judges in regard to crimes committed under the influence of drunkenness," asks the eminent Q.C. "whether there is any general principle which is accepted by judges to regulate their decisions in cases where drunkenness seems to be the incentive to crime."

Sir Henry, in his reply, says: "The question is full of difficulty and interest. The extent to which drunkenness can excuse crime, or ought to increase or mitigate punishment, is constantly the subject of judicial consideration," and he