

CHAPTER II.

THE LAW SOCIETY OF UPPER CANADA.

Notandi sunt tibi mores.—Ars Poet.

Mr. D. B. Read, K.C., has styled the Law Society the cradle in which the Judges were nurtured. He shews that the Bar of Ontario is, in some respects, the offspring of the Bar of Quebec as it existed prior to 1791.

An ordinance passed in 1785 provided that no barrister, solicitor or proctor, if not previously called or admitted, should practise, unless articulated for five years to an advocate or attorney practising in some court of civil jurisdiction within some part of His Majesty's Dominion.

This ordinance held good until the Upper Canada Legislature, in 1792, enacted that, in all matters of controversy or civil rights, resort should be had to the laws of England as the rule of decision, which thenceforth took the place of the French law.

The Legislature was soon convinced of the necessity of having lawyers sufficiently skilled in British jurisprudence; and on the 9th July, 1794, passed the Act referred to authorizing the Governor to license advocates and attorneys in the Province, not exceeding six in number.

William Dickson, D'Arey Boulton, John Powell and William Elliott were at the same time as William Warren Baldwin, admitted by Lieutenant-Governor Peter Hunter.

It does not appear why these gentlemen chose this mode of entering the profession rather than through the doors of the Law Society, then established and having certain powers.