

transformed into valuable farming property. His time was thus occupied until his life's labors were ended in death in 1864.

George H. Watson acquired his early education in the Newmarket grammar school, while his more specifically literary course was pursued in Victoria University, from which he was graduated in 1871, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He afterward took up the study of law in the same institution and won the degree of Bachelor of Law in 1874. He was called to the Bar of Ontario the same year, after studying under the direction of the late Hon. Lewis Walbridge, who was afterward chief justice of Manitoba.

Mr. Watson began practice in Toronto in 1875. The practice of his firm is scarcely surpassed in extent or importance in Toronto. They represent leading corporations and prominent clients, and for the past fifteen years Mr. Watson has enjoyed a large counsel business throughout the province. His success came soon because his equipment was unusually good. Along with those qualities indispensable to the lawyer—a keen, rapid, logical mind plus the business sense and the ready capacity for hard work—he brought to the starting point of his legal career rarer gifts—eloquence of language and a strong personality. An excellent presence, an earnest, dignified manner, marked strength of character, a thorough grasp of the law and an ability to accurately apply its principles, are factors in his effectiveness as an advocate. His practice has not been restricted to any one branch of the profession, although for the last fifteen years he has been engaged almost exclusively as counsel at *nisi prius* and in the appellate courts. The law of the corporations, however, which has developed so rapidly in volume and complexity, now comprises the largest subdivision of civil law and composes the larger part of his office practice.

In 1875 Mr. Watson was married to Laurene, a daughter of the late Alfred Munson, of Cobourg, who was a prominent contractor during his long and useful career. They now have two children, Norah and Strafford. Mr. Watson is a member of Ionic lodge, A.F. & A.M. and is a communicant of St. James' Church of England, while politically he is a Liberal.