

the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the capital to the most remote villages in the Dominion.

Our Ottawa correspondent writes under date of 14th instant :

“ How forcibly we are reminded of the shortness and uncertainty of life by such an event as the sudden and untimely death of one so prominent as Sir John Thompson, in whom Canada has lost her Premier, and the profession of which *THE JOURNAL* is an exponent and record its political chief ! The air of the city has been and is full of him, flags flying at half-mast, little gatherings of politicians at street corners talking about him, and newspapers full of speculations on the consequences of his decease. And now we hear that Mr. Mackenzie Bowell has been sent for by the Governor-General, and has been entrusted with the formation of a new Ministry.

It has been said that ‘the evil men do lives after them: the good is oft interred with their bones’; but in all the notices of Sir John by papers of all shades of politics, there has been no charge of evil against him; all join in eulogy, and any one who seeks, to-day, testimony to his merit has only to listen and to read. He followed, and will, of course, be compared with, the other Sir John, of whom Mr. Joseph Pope has given us so excellent and justly eulogistic a memoir; and though less brilliant and sparkling, and less skilful in the management of members and of men than his predecessor, he was perhaps his superior in the power of convincing men by logical argument, while he was probably his equal in the science of government, and in a knowledge of the law in all its bearings, whether general, technical, or practical.

Sir John Thompson has given us a good code of criminal law, and, had he lived, would have been a likely man to have given effect to that provision of the Constitutional Act which contemplates the unification of the civil law in all the Provinces of the Dominion except Quebec, and might, perhaps, have removed that singular distinction of equity from law which the Quebec code ignores.

Born in 1844, he died comparatively young, but with honours which have fallen to the lot of few. Called to the Bar in 1865, he was, in 1882, appointed Judge of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia. He left the Bench to re-enter public life, and in 1885 he entered the Cabinet, becoming Minister of Justice. On the