

William

John

- 1757. Born Pitt. 6 Feb. Born Pitt. 1753.
- 1773. 5. Agent in Port de Grave. — 1781.
- 1775. Bequest of Plantation from uncle. William Carnell. Master of Plymouth vessel.
- 1775. leased ground from Isaac Richards.
- 20 1787. Bought land from Philip Vocher.
- 1789. " " John Husey.
- 1788. William & John purchase 'Mary Temina' Built Plymouth. Firm " J. W. P. of Port de Grave.
- 1792. William spending summers in Nfld. 1790. Established in London. Trading with African people.
- 1793. Resident family member JOHN. (? son).
- 1793. 1801 business run by agents.
- 40 1797. William marries Amy Richards (? dau? Isaac).
- 1800. Ship William & John wrecked. Sandwich Isles.
- 1800. William & John own 9 vessels. One commanded by Thomas.
- 1802. William, resident partner. John died by 1826.
- 1805. William has land in Cupids (64.65 Northside. cut & cleared 1795-1804). London offices 'William & John. Portman Square.
- 1804. William left property at Ockre Pit Cove by father in law.
- 50 1810. Part owner, vessel 'Holonubi'. W. Terpinmouth.
- 1818. Birth of son. Robert P. at Port de Grave. (= Lucia Brown William 1822)
- 1820. Ship building at Port de Grave.
- 1826. Part owner 'Brother' of Etford. Wottonup. + Mary Spear P. dau. late Joseph P.
- 1828. Firm styled 'William & Robert P. Present'. John P. of London.
- 1835. William dies, at Etford, W. Terpinmouth.
- 1841. Amy P. 'late of Port de Grave' dies.

Richard P. 1744-80. Importing from Nfld.

of Sawlish - gent. Part owner. 'Holonubi'. 1810. William sole owner 1812.

Thomas P. 'of Sawlish' Purchases share of 'Holonubi' 1812.

Obituary Notices.

Sir Robert Pinsent.

### DEATH OF SIR ROBERT PINSENT.

MEMOIR OF THE LATE JUDGE.

With much regret that we have to record the death of Sir Robert John Pinsent, Judge of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland, which took place at Bintry Rectory, Norfolk, on Thursday last, April 27th. Sir Robert, who was a frequent visitor to his friends and relations in this country, arrived in England last December on a six months' leave of absence. Towards the end of March he started with Lady Pinsent for London on a visit to his daughter, and while there had the pleasure of an audience with the Pope. He returned to England on April 10th well in health, but the east winds and general change of climate from the sunny south led to his contracting pneumonia, and on April 13th he was confined to his bed with illness. In the following week the severity of the attack had somewhat abated, being anxious to spend some time with his family in Norfolk before returning to Newfoundland, he was compelled to leave London on April 19th. The journey was, unfortunately, too much for him; pneumonia supervened, and after a short but severe illness he passed peacefully and painlessly away on April 27th. Lady Pinsent nursed him through his illness, and his son, Mr. Charles A. M. Pinsent, was with him when he died. The remains were interred in the churchyard of Bintry on Saturday last amid manifestations of sincere sympathy on the part of the villagers, who had often heard the late judge take part in the services of the church.

Those who follow the affairs of Newfoundland will realise what regret this sad news will be received by all classes in the Colony. The late judge was respected and even beloved by rich and poor, Protestant and Catholic, and this is the remarkable when we remember his large-hearted devotion to the interests of the Colony. By descent as well as by association he was a Newfoundlander among Newfoundlanders. Born at Port-de-Grave fifty-nine years ago, it was within the Colony that he attended the Harbour Grace Grammar School that he received his education; in the legal circles of St. John's he entered business and in the social circles of the capital he met his first wife; there he made his forensic fame, and his entire public life was lived in constant association with the Colony. In thus identifying himself with Newfoundland Sir Robert only followed the example of his forefathers. His forefathers on the maternal side went to Newfoundland from Wales in the early part of the last century, and his grandfather was Chief Magistrate at St. John's and Judge of Assize. His father was also well known to the older generation of Newfoundlanders as Judge of the Court of Labrador and Magistrate for the Colony; while the commercial house of the Pinsents was prominent among the "merchant adventurers" of London who traded with the Colony during the last century, and whose fame and credit may now descend upon one of the sons of the late judge, Mr. Charles A. M. Pinsent, one of the present merchants of St. John's.

But though Sir Robert Pinsent was so identified with New-

foundland affairs, and took so keen an interest in all that concerned her welfare, he was never a bitter politician. He was of too judicial a mind to permit of this. When he entered public life in 1859 as a member of the Legislative Council he had already made for himself a name as an advocate, displaying in the words which Chief Justice Brady applied to the young advocate at the close of a criminal trial—"great skill and distinguished ability." His professional eminence was recognised six years later, in 1865, when he was made Queen's Counsel and when in the same year he resigned his seat in the selected chamber of the Legislature to represent his native district of Brigus and Port-de-Grave in the Legislative Assembly. The succeeding eight years were years of much political excitement in Newfoundland, and it became Mr. Pinsent's duty to take an active part in the Confederation movement. No district proved more hostile to union with Canada than did that which he represented, and it was no doubt partly owing to the stand he made on this question that he subsequently suffered what he himself termed the "severe disappointment" of repeated rejection at the polls, and was led to abandon "the contentions of politics" and accept the seat upon the bench of the Supreme Court vacated by the retirement of his principal of early days, Justice Sir Bryan Robinson. During the twelve years of his judicial career, Sir Robert Pinsent was much before the public. He was called upon to render judgment upon suits of high national importance, such as those arising from the fatal Harbour Grace riots of 1883 and those affecting the Newfoundland railway, and it says much for his legal acumen that his judgments were upheld by the highest court in the Empire in the face of differences of legal opinion with his own judicial colleagues and with the advisers of the Newfoundland Administration. Moreover, the frequent periods during which Chief Justice Sir Frederick Carter was called upon to administer the affairs of the Colony, in the absence of the Governor, cast upon Sir Robert Pinsent exceptional judicial responsibility, under which he never failed to bear himself with high-minded dignity.

But apart from his duties on the Bench, Sir Robert Pinsent bore himself as a patriotic Newfoundlander. Himself a prominent member of the Church of England in the Colony, he never forgot that Newfoundland's life must be built up upon a frank recognition of differences of creed, and he was always ready to take part in religious, social, and educational movements, from whatever quarter they originated. During his frequent visits to England he strove to remove the general ignorance of Englishmen regarding Newfoundland affairs. He met Englishmen who in their conversation referred to Newfoundland as one of the West Indian Islands, and again as being near the North Pole. Not long ago an Englishman expressed astonishment that the Colony should be found large enough to hold a railway, and by such encounters as these the late judge was driven to the belief that but for the famous Newfoundland dog the name of the island would probably hardly exist in the minds of most Englishmen. These misconceptions Sir Robert Pinsent did his best to remove. From its inception he was an active member of the Royal Colonial Institute, and one of the last acts of his life was to prepare a paper on Newfoundland affairs for the edification of that body. In 1885 he read before a meeting of the Institute, presided over by the Marquis of Lorne, an admirable paper directing attention to the past history and present prospects of the Colony. With enthusiasm he reminded his hearers how great a part Newfoundland had played in the history of the Empire. Adopting the words used by McGregor in his "History of British America," he asserted that for at least two centuries and a-half after its discovery by Cabot, Newfoundland was of more mighty importance to Great Britain than any other Colony; and, he added, it is doubtful if the British Empire would have risen to its great and superior rank among the nations of the earth if any other Power had held possession of Newfoundland. Sir Robert was indeed most emphatic in his opinion that the Empire could not dispense with her oldest Colony. He regarded it as the outpost of America, the key to the St. Lawrence, the headquarters of ocean telegraphy, and he did all he could to educate Englishmen up to the belief that it could never be allowed to fall into other hands and become the base of hostile operations by sea. He was, however, a firm believer in the future of Newfoundland, quite apart from its strategic importance. Its resources were, he believed, such as to make it a self-contained and wholly valuable portion of the British Empire, capable even of extended colonisation. The exact form which its future might take remained to him a matter of doubt. For one thing he never ceased to strive: the removal from Newfoundland of the hampering hand of France. "It is," he once said, "a monstrous shame and a cruel wrong that as regards a coast so teeming with possible wealth and so necessary to her welfare, Newfoundland should be cribbed, caged and confined as she now is." As to the question of confederation with Canada, he held that to obtain Newfoundland the Dominion would have to pay a very high price, especially in regard to the construction of a complete railway system, and he would not say that the Newfoundland