

## COMMON LAW CHAMBERS ACT—SHALL WE PUNISH MURDER.

3. Every judge of the said superior courts is hereby authorized to transact such business at chambers or elsewhere depending in either of the said superior courts, as relates to matters over which said courts have a common jurisdiction and as may according to the course and practice of the court be transacted by a single judge.

4. Every judge of the superior courts is hereby authorized to transact out of court such business as may, according to the course and practice of the court, be so transacted by a single judge, relating to any suit or proceeding in either of the said Courts of Queen's Bench or Common Pleas, or relating to the granting writs of *certiorari* or *habeas corpus*, or to the admitting of persons on criminal charges to bail, or approving of bonds with sureties when given in any matter of appeal from the judgment of either of the said courts, or to the issuing of extents or other process for the recovery of debts due to Her Majesty, or relating to any other matter or thing usually transacted out of court, in like manner as if the judge transacting such business had been a judge of the court to which the same by law belongs.

5. Whereas a great part of the business in the chambers of the said judges might with advantage to the public, be disposed of by the clerks of the Crown and Pleas of the said Court of Queen's Bench, be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for a majority of all the judges of the said courts, which majority shall include the two Chief Justices, or one of the Chief Justices, and the senior of the Puisne Judges of the said courts, from time to time, to make and publish general rules for the following purposes, that is to say:

(1). For empowering the clerks of the Crown of the said courts of Queen's Bench to do any such thing, and to transact any such business, and to exercise any such authority and jurisdiction in respect of the same as by virtue of any statute or custom, or by the rules of practice of the said respective courts or any of them respectively are now done, transacted or exercised by a judge of the said respective courts sitting at chambers, and as shall be specified in any such rule, except in respect of matters relating to the liberty of the subject.

(2). For regulating the attendance of the said clerks at chambers, the course of practice to be there pursued, and the scale of costs to be there adopted.

(3). For fixing the table of fees to be taken in respect of business to be transacted before the said clerks of the Crown at chambers, and for abolishing or altering from time to time such table of fees.

6. Every rule to be made under this Act shall be read aloud in open court—in each of said courts, ten clear days at least before the day fixed for such rule coming into operation, and within one month after that day a copy

of every such rule shall be transmitted by one of the said Chief Justices to the Provincial Secretary.

7. Every rule to be made under this Act shall be laid before the Legislative Assembly by the Provincial Secretary, within one month after the making thereof, if the Legislature be then sitting, or if not, then within one month after the commencement of the next session of the Legislature.

8. Every order or decision made or given under this Act by the said clerk of the Crown sitting at chambers, shall be as valid and binding on all parties concerned, as if the same had been made or given by a judge sitting at chambers; provided always that it shall be lawful for any person affected by any order or decision of the said clerk of the Crown forthwith, or within such time as shall be appointed by any rules to be made under this Act, and subject to such conditions as to costs, as may be provided under any such rules or orders to appeal from such decision to a judge sitting at chambers.

The Bill which was introduced by Mr. Clarke, to change the mode of appointing the Benchers by making them elective, has been withdrawn, the Speaker having ruled that it was a private Bill. It is a subject of great importance, and not to be dealt with without full and careful consideration, and therefore, beside all the objections on the face of the Bill itself, we are glad that it was thrown out. We shall have something to say on this subject hereafter.

Mr. Spragge has been offered and has accepted the Chancellorship, and that Mr. Strong has been appointed one of the Vice-Chancellors.

## SELECTIONS.

## SHALL WE PUNISH MURDER?

The crime of murder is an atrocious one. For one human being, deliberately, with studied purpose and malice afore-thought, to take the life of another, is an act at the bare thought of which even many a hardened wretch shudders. That there should be circumstances, under whose cover a murderer may not only be excused, but also justified; not only justified, but even glorified, is at first thought almost inconceivable; nevertheless, such circumstances exist.

Woman in America occupies an anomalous condition. Treated in some respects as if far superior to the masculine sex, in others denied all participation in rights and privileges accorded to its lowest specimens, her outward conduct is a fit and faithful representation of the