

According to the Revised Statutes of the State of New York, vol. 1, page 368, section 24, 7th edition, the following is the oath or affirmation required of a Notary Public before entering on the duties of his office, viz :—" I do solemnly swear (or "affirm" as the case may be) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New York, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Notary Public to the best of my ability."

In the State of Pennsylvania the oath of a Notary runs as follows :—" You do swear that you will well and faithfully perform the duties of your office of Notary Public, and that you will support the constitution of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania." (Dunlap's Forms, p. 116.)

In the Province of Quebec :—" Before commencing to practise, every Notary must take the oaths of office and allegiance before a judge of the Superior Court, a certificate whereof is entered on his commission." Article 3831, Revised Statutes of Quebec, 1888.

In France, the *Organisation du Notariat*, 1866, declares :—" *Le Notaire n'aura le droit d'exercer qu'à compter du jour où il aura prêté serment.*" (Section 48.)

In England, by 6 & 7 Vict., chap. 90, section 7 (1843), it was enacted that "every person to be admitted and enrolled a public Notary shall, before a faculty is granted to him authorising him to practise as such, *in addition to the oaths of allegiance and supremacy*, make oath before the master of the faculties, his surrogate or other proper officer, in substance and to the effect following :—" I, A. B., do swear that I will faithfully exercise the office of a Public Notary ; I will faithfully make contracts or instruments for or between any party or parties requiring the same, and I will not add or diminish anything without the knowledge and consent of such party or parties, that may alter the substance of the fact ; I will not make or attest any act, contract or instrument in which I shall know there is violence or fraud ; and in all things I will act uprightly and justly in the business of a Public Notary, according to the best of my skill and ability. So help me God."

In addition to this oath the oaths of allegiance and supremacy were required, except in certain cases where another form of oath was substituted by Act of Parliament.

This continued to be the law until the year 1874, when 6 & 7 Vict., c. 90, s. 7, was amended by the Statute Law Revision Act, No. 2, of 37 & 38 Vict., c. 96, which repealed the words "in addition to the oaths of allegiance and supremacy."

The answer to the query whether an oath should be imposed on Ontario Notaries is answered practically we think by the custom of the countries we have named—the commercial centres of the world.

"An oath is a reverent appeal to God, in corroboration of what one says, invoking, according as his declaration is sincere or deceptive, the divine blessing or punishment in another life." (Abbott's Dictionary, verbo Oath.)

The use of oaths is defended by the following reasons :—"Oaths are required