

DIARY—CONTENTS—EDITORIAL ITEMS.

DIARY FOR MARCH.

- 4. Thurs. Grant enters upon his second term as President of the United States, 1873.
- 6. Sat. Name of York changed to Toronto, 1834.
- 7. SUN. 4th Sunday in Lent.
- 9. Tues. County Court and General Sessions in York. Last day for J. P.'s to return convictions. (32 V., c. 6, s. 9, O.; 33 V., c. 27, s. 3, O.)
- 14. SUN. Passion Sunday.
- 17. Wed. St. Patrick's Day.
- 21. SUN. Palm Sunday.
- 23. Tues. Sir George Arthur, Lieut.-Gov. Upper Canada, 1835.
- 26. Frid. Good Friday.
- 28. SUN. Easter Sunday.
- 30. Tues. Lord Metcalfe, Governor-General, 1843.
- 31. Wed. Last day for return by Clerks of Municipalities, under secs. 191, 192, Mun. Act.

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An important judgment has just been given by the Court of Queen's Bench, on the law of libel. It came up in the now *cause célèbre* of *The Queen v. Patteson*. The Court held that the prosecution was by a "private prosecutor," and that therefore, under sec. 11 of 37 Vict. cap. 38 (Dom.) the Crown had no right to cause any juror to "stand aside." In this case eleven jurymen were "discharged" by the Crown Counsel, and this was the main ground of the appeal from the ruling of the learned Judge who tried the case. Two of the Judges in giving judgment, censured in strong terms the action of the Counsel for the Crown in opposing, with the pertinacity he did, the application on behalf of the defendant to have points of law reserved for the opinion of the Court.

Our attention has been called to an error in the paragraph relating to over-worked lawyers in a recent number of this journal (Vol. X. p. 330). We there referred to the late Mr. Justice Willes, as though he had declined Knighthood. The judge of that name who declined the dignity was Mr. Justice (Edward) Willes, a contemporary of Lord Mansfield. Another judge of a similar mind was Mr. Justice Heath, who preferred to die as he had lived, "plain John Heath." Our correspondent also questions whether Sir S. Romilly should be included in the category of lawyers worked to death. There is no doubt that during his early years he was obliged from failing health, induced by severe study, to quit England and recruit his strength at Lausanne. And his life at the close indicated that he was affected in much the same way as Hugh Miller. Brain fever set in, and in a paroxysm of delirium he put an end to his life.