

DIARY FOR APRIL.

1. Tuesday	Chan Examination Term Barrle and Ottawa commences.
6. Saturday	Last Day or notice of trial for York and Peel.
7. SUNDAY	3d Sunday in Lent.
7. Monday	County Court and Surr. Ct. Terms beg. Recorder's Ct. sits.
8. Tuesday	Chancery Examination Term, Goderich and Cornwall, com.
12. Saturday	County Court and Surrogate Court Terms end.
13. SUNDAY	Palm Sunday.
14. Monday	York and Peel Spring Assizes.
17. Thursday	Last day for sett. down for Hearing Chancery.
18. Friday	Good Friday.
20. SUNDAY	Easter Sunday.
21. Monday	Last day for notice of Hearing Chancery.
27. SUNDAY	Low Sunday.
29. Monday	Chancery Hearing Term commences.
30. Wednesday	Last day for complet. Assessment Rolls. Last day for Non-Residents to give lists of their lands.

IMPORTANT BUSINESS NOTICE.

Persons indebted to the Proprietors of this Journal are requested to remember that all our past due accounts have been placed in the hands of Messrs Patton & Aridagh, Attorneys, Barrle, for collection; and that only a prompt remittance to them will save costs.

It is with great reluctance that the Proprietors have adopted this course; but they have been compelled to do so in order to enable them to meet their current expenses which are very heavy.

Now that the usefulness of the Journal is so generally admitted, it would not be unreasonable to expect that the Profession and Officers of the Courts would accord it a liberal support, instead of allowing themselves to be sued for their subscriptions.

The Upper Canada Law Journal.

APRIL, 1862.

THE NEW CHANCELLOR.

On 18th March last an extra issued from the office of the *Canada Gazette*, announcing that the Governor General had been pleased to appoint the Honorable Philip Michael Matthew Scott Vankoughnet to be Chancellor of Upper Canada.

Mr. Vankoughnet is a very young man to have attained a position so high and important. He is not yet forty years old. His great talents have given him the start of many of his seniors. He is the descendant of a United Empire Loyalist. His grandfather was a loyalist, and his father, Philip Vankoughnet, who is still living, was for many years a member of the Legislature of Upper Canada before the union of Upper and Lower Canada.

The present Chancellor is a Canadian by birth, having been born at Cornwall on the 26th January, 1823. Dr. Urquhart of that town was his instructor. He early gave promise of the talents which have since made him so distinguished. His parents had intended him to embrace the clerical profession; this was their design, and so continued for several years. He is said at one time not to have been averse to it; but owing to some circumstance or other suddenly changed his intentions. Some say that it was his admiration of a speech delivered in his hearing by the late Mr. Justice Hagerman that caused the change.

He first became a student-at-law in the office of George Jarvis, of Cornwall. He next entered the office of Messrs.

Smith & Crooks, in Toronto. He displayed great aptitude for the profession and diligence in the pursuit of it. He was known among the students of his day as "a hard working, clever kind of fellow." His principals trusted much to his judgment, and his subsequent career has proved the correctness of their discernment.

He was called to the bar in February, 1844, when only twenty-one years of age. He wisely decided to practise in the City of Toronto, the seat of law. His first partnership was with the present Mr. Justice Burns. His next was with Mr. Oliver Mowat, who at one time was considered his rival for the Chancellorship, in the event of a lucky throw in the political dice. His diligence after his call to the bar was not so great as when a student. He trusted more to his talents than to his industry. He was successful at Nisi Prius as an advocate. His display of industry "during term" was not equal to that of many of his compeers. He during the later years of his practice made Equity his study, and held many equity briefs. He was the Trinity College lecturer on "Equity Jurisprudence," at the same time that the present Mr. Justice Hagarty lectured on the "Law of Contracts," and Mr. J. Hillyard Cameron on the "Law of Real Property." His lectures were oral, and not remarkable as the fruits of industry; but were at all times interesting and instructive.

He was only twelve years at the bar when, in 1856, he accepted the office of President of the Executive Council, at the solicitation of the present Attorney General for Upper Canada. Since then he has not been in the active practice of his profession; his duties as a minister of the crown engrossed his attention. He was shortly after his acceptance of office elected a member for the Legislative Council division of Rideau, and from that time till his acceptance of the office of Chancellor was the leader of the Government in the Legislative Council. At first he was said as a public man to be a failure. This was a hasty conclusion. No doubt, considering his youth and inexperience in politics, he did not for a little time take a decided and prominent position in debates. He was, however, not long in doing so, and when he did so it was with marked effect. His good humor and acknowledged abilities soon made him fully equal to his conspicuous and important position. During the Macdonald-Cartier Administration he was head of the Bureau of Agriculture, and upon the formation of the Cartier-Macdonald Administration he became Commissioner of Crown Lands; and in the latter office, to the surprise of everybody, accomplished wonders in cleaning that Augean Stable. His ready talents, combined with his knowledge of both law and equity, enabled him to dispose of hundreds of "land cases" which for years had lain dormant on the shelves of the department.