

## DIARY FOR DECEMBER.

1. Thursday ..... Paper Day C. P. Clerk of every Municip. ex. Co. to return (number of resident ratepayers to R. O.
3. Saturday ..... Michaelmas Term ends.
4. SUNDAY ..... 2nd Sunday in Advent.
6. Monday ..... Last day for notice of Trial for County Court.
8. Thursday ..... Con. B. V. Mary.
10. Saturday ..... Last day for service York and Peel.
11. SUNDAY ..... 3rd Sunday in Advent.
12. Monday ..... Collector to return Roll to Chamberlain or Treasurer.
13. Tuesday ..... Quarter Sessions and County Court sittings in each County.
18. SUNDAY ..... 4th Sunday in Advent.
19. Monday ..... Recorder's Court sittings. Nomination of Mayor.
20. Tuesday ..... Declare for York and Peel.
21. Wednesday ..... St. Thomas.
25. SUNDAY ..... CHRISTMAS DAY.
26. Monday ..... St. Stephen.
27. Tuesday ..... St. John Evangelist.
28. Wednesday ..... Innocents. Last day for notice of trial for York and Peel.
29. Thursday ..... Sittings Court of Error and Appeal commence.
31. Saturday ..... End of municipal year. Last day on which remaining half (Grammar School Fund payable.

## 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 Ardagh & Ardagh, Attorney, Barris, 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.

DECEMBER, 1864.

## VICE CHANCELLOR MOWAT.

When the death of the late lamented Vice Chancellor Esten became generally known, there was some speculation as to his probable successor. All agreed that the most likely man was the gentleman upon whom the appointment has now devolved. Some supposed that he would decline it, and men were by no means agreed as to the best man for the appointment in the event of his refusal. Fortunately, his acceptance of the office has both relieved the government from embarrassment and secured for the office one whose legal attainments and position at the Chancery bar make him eminently the right man in the right place.

Mr. Mowat, like the Chancellor, is by birth a Canadian. He was born in 1820, in the city of Kingston. He is the son of Mr. John Mowat, formerly of Caithnessshire, Scotland, but who for many years had been an inhabitant of Kingston, and recently died there. The son was destined for the bar, and, in Hilary 1842, received his call. He practised for some time in Toronto, in partnership with the present Chancellor; and at one time was considered a rival for the office of Chancellor. After the dissolution of his partnership with the Chancellor, he formed a partnership with Messrs. Roaf and Davis, and became in a short time the

leader at the Equity bar. Latterly, he practised in connection with Mr. John McLennan. In 1855, upon the recommendation of the present Attorney General for Upper Canada, he received a silk gown, and was then in the zenith of his professional success. Of late years, his attention to politics necessarily to some extent withdrew him from the practice of his profession, no doubt to the serious detriment of his pocket.

He became a politician in 1857, having been induced by Mr. George Brown to become a candidate for the South Riding of Ontario. He was elected by a large majority and from that time till the present has continued to sit in the Legislative Assembly for that constituency. He became a cabinet minister in 1858, when the Brown-Dorion government was framed; but as that government lasted only for two days, he did not then enjoy much of "the sweets of office." Upon the defeat of that government he went into opposition, and became an opponent of the present Attorney General Macdonald. He was, as it is well known, of the extreme liberal school of politics, while the Attorney General was conservative. His hostility to the Attorney General became so bitter that the latter was provoked on one occasion to threaten personal violence; besides which, at the instance of his party, he opposed the Attorney General in Kingston, but was defeated by a large majority. He, with George Brown and others, opposed the Cartier-Macdonald government through thick and thin, and they at length succeeded in defeating it. The consequence was the formation by Mr. Sandfield Macdonald of the Macdonald-Sicotte government, in which he again accepted office as a minister of the Crown, and continued in office, with the exception of short intervals, till April last, when Sandfield Macdonald was defeated and John A. Macdonald and Cartier were again called to power. Mr. Mowat, following his leader, George Brown, again went into opposition, but only continued so for a short time. When the present coalition was formed he was appointed a minister of the Crown in the same cabinet with John A. Macdonald, and was finally made Vice Chancellor upon John A. Macdonald's recommendation.

The fickleness of politics cannot be better illustrated than by the career of Mr. Oliver Mowat. To John A. Macdonald he owed his appointment as a Queen's Counsel, and to him he now owes his appointment as Vice Chancellor, and yet for more than five years he and John A. Macdonald were at daggers drawn. To the present combination we are indebted for the present appointment, and, so far, good has come out of it.

Mr. Mowat, as a lawyer, commanded the confidence of the community in which he lived. His reputation soon grew beyond the limits of the city in which he commenced