

## WHO IS TO BE VICE-CHANCELLOR.—VENTILATION.

very familiar with the practice of the Court, would not be out of place on the Chancery Bench. Mr. D. B. Read had at one time a large Chancery business, and his appointment would not be unacceptable to many in the profession.

The fact is, there is a dearth of material at the equity bar, if we except those few eminent men who, perhaps, for political reasons, might not be offered the vacant seat, or who, if offered it, might refuse to accept an office which would entail greater labours and give less remuneration, than fall to their lot as counsel; to say nothing, we were almost going to say, of being shut out from politics and other objects of ambition, but this, alas, is now one of the traditions of the "good old times;" the action of the late Vice-Chancellor has taught us something new in this respect.

Whoever the recipient of this office may be, and it is no bed of roses, we hope (1) that the appointment may soon be made, (2) that it may *not* be made a matter of party politics, and (3) that the time is approaching when all our judges may receive salaries which will not be as they now are, both disgraceful to the country, and most injurious to its best interests.

## VENTILATION.

Mr. Justice Wilson has spoken out well and boldly at the Hamilton assizes, in condemnation of the wretched ventilation of Canadian court-houses. It is well known that his name-sake, Mr. Justice John Wilson, was poisoned by the abominable atmosphere of the court-house at Owen Sound. The *Lancet* takes up the same theme with reference to the deeply-lamented death of Mr. Justice Willes. It says that his mental aberration was, in consequence of physical disease, intensified, if not incurred, by the bad ventilation of the law courts, in which he spent so much of his intellectual activity. The *Lancet* proceeds thus: "Dr. Angus Smith records a visit to a London court, which, at the moment of entering, was extremely warm and unpleasant, and after some minutes intolerable. He stayed long enough to collect specimens of the air, which he found, on analysis, to contain a smaller amount of oxygen than any place above ground, 'except the gallery of an extremely crowded theatre at half-past ten at night.' But he adds the court air was still worse than

that of the theatre, its temperature being very high, and the organic matter from perspiration in proportion. A handkerchief which had wiped from one of the windows a little of the animal steam, by which they were dimmed, smelt offensive afterwards. Law reform is a large subject; but the improvement of the courts in which it is administered ought to find a place in its programme. We are afraid to think of the valuable lives which may be slowly yielding to influences like those so disastrous to Justice Willes—bad air breathed during mental strain of the severest kind. How long will it be before the judge on the bench is as well off in the matter of oxygen as the prisoner in the gaol?" No court-house in the Province requires reformation in this respect more than Osgoode Hall. The new benchers have shown themselves not remiss in attending to needed reforms. Let them now address themselves to this duty, and set an example in the metropolis which the county towns may well copy.

## LEGISLATION IN NOVA SCOTIA.

Our attention has been drawn to two measures which it is proposed to bring before the Legislature in Nova Scotia, at its next session. One is an Act for establishing County Courts, and the other an Act to confer criminal jurisdiction on the County Courts. Their purport will be best seen from the synopsis given below, some of the clauses being copied in full:

## AN ACT FOR ESTABLISHING COUNTY COURTS.

Be it enacted as follows:

1. There shall be established in each of the Counties of this Province, except the County of Halifax, a Court of Law and of Record, to be called the County Court of (the name of the county). The sittings shall be held at the Court House, &c.

2. [Names of Districts—Judges to hold office during good behaviour, &c.]

3. [Provision in case of inability of Judge to hold Court.]

4. No Judge of any such Court shall practice, carry on or conduct any business in the profession or practice of the law, while being such Judge, on pain of forfeiture of his office.

5. [Judge's oath of office.]

6. The practice, forms and modes of proceeding shall be according to the practice of the Supreme Court of this Province; and the Judges of such County Courts shall at all times be governed by the decisions of the Supreme Court.