

to appoint" Mr. A. B., Judge of the County Court of the County of X. in the room of Mr. C. D. *resigned*: shortly after that, "His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to appoint" Mr. C. D., Judge of the County Court of the County of X. in the room of Mr. A. B. *resigned*; and again, "His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to appoint Mr. A. B., Judge of the County Court of the County of X., in the room of C. D. *resigned*"; and again, "His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to appoint Mr. C. D. Judge of the County Court for the County of X. in the room of Mr. A. B. *resigned*"; the self-same A. B. and the self-same C. D., My Lord and Mr. Dickens have perhaps supposed that the rapid change of Judges was owing to the fast spirit of Young Canada, or imagined that our Judges took the office on trial for a quarter, and were as changing a class as our domestic servants. We would beg to assure these great men and others whom it may concern, that such supposings and imaginings are erroneous—that these announcements are only little blossoms of the "Circumlocution Tree."

Let us explain. In the local administration of Justice in Upper Canada, a Judge is appointed for each County, and presides in all the local Courts. The circumstances of the country have not yet rendered it necessary to appoint more than one Judge to a county, and the consequence is that in case of the illness or unavoidable absence of the sole Judge, some one must take the duties, or the business of the Courts will be at a stand. One would have supposed that might easily be obviated, but on circumlocution principles it is not accomplished with such facility as one might think.

Let us suppose:—a Judge meets with an accident on his circuit, is thrown from his horse and breaks his leg, or that the carrying away of a bridge lets him into the stream (such things have happened in this rough country) and he escapes with "the bare life"; he, the sole Judge, is incapacitated for the time from attending to his duties, and the County Court sittings are at hand; or that the Judge obtains two or three months necessary leave of absence—some one must take his place. It is managed in this way: the Judge, if he be able, writes to the Provincial Secretary, stating the circumstances, and naming some Barrister (if he can

prevail upon one to act) who will be willing to take his place during the temporary disability or absence. The Judge then *resigns* his office. His Excellency the Governor General is pleased to accept his resignation, and to the office thus rendered vacant is again pleased to appoint the Barrister who is willing to act. Thereupon a commission is prepared, sealed with the great Seal of the Province, and duly signed by His Excellency the Governor General.

By and bye the ex-Judge is able to resume his duties, and wishes to get his place back again. The obliging Barrister of course transmits his resignation as Judge, which His Excellency is pleased to accept, and in due time the ex-Judge is named to his old office, his commission is signed and sealed, and in "due course" transmitted to him, and "Richa. l is himself again," and so it goes on. We have not referred to certain unpleasant contingencies which might arise, but have given a plain account of one little piece of circumlocution which an Act of Parliament has rendered necessary, which Legislators and not officials must father. "An Act of Parliament can do anything," it is said; if it could confer eternal vigour and immunity from accident, Private Bills would be as "plenty as blackberries." Unfortunately, however, the supposition, on which the law relating to County Judges is based, is not altogether correct: these men will occasionally be sick, and like other people do not grow stronger as they grow older; and a substitute *will* at times be needed, until there be more than one acting Judge in a County. Circumlocution has hitherto come in aid in the way stated. But simple minded people may say, why not allow the Judge to appoint the said Barrister as his Deputy for the time being, or enable the Governor to appoint some qualified person as a standing Deputy, whose services might be had, if occasion required, at a moment's notice? Why not, say we? Better to make a provision for doing a necessary act by direct means, than to compel a resort to circumlocution—*Tite, Barnacle & Co.* "to the contrary thereof in anywise, notwithstanding."

Having, we trust, given a satisfactory gloss to those at a distance respecting official appointment, and shown how simple minded people suppose that the "Red Tape" knot might be unloosed without