

seat to his right; John W. Gwynne, Esquire, Queen's Counsel, being appointed the new Judge, and sitting as Junior Puisne Judge of that court.

It was at one time thought that the Chancellor would have accepted the Chief Justiceship, which was offered to him in contemplation of Mr. Draper's retirement, and it was hoped by many that he would have accepted the office, as it was very generally thought that he was admirably suited for that position, but difficulties that could not easily be surmounted in the choice of some one to succeed him in the Court of Chancery are said to have prevented his making the change.

These appointments will produce a thorough change in the *personel* of the two courts, the majority of the judges formerly in the Court of Common Pleas being transferred to the Queen's Bench, and Mr. Justice John Wilson being the only representative of the Court of Common Pleas as lately constituted. One result of this will be that the cases still standing for judgment are to be re-argued before the present bench.

As to the appointments in themselves, the Chief Justice has already presided as the Chief of a court, and the duties now devolving upon him will not be materially different from those to which he has lately been accustomed, and will, doubtless, be as faithfully performed. Of the learning and ability of the new Chief of the Pleas it is unnecessary to speak, it is admitted on all sides. We congratulate Mr. Gwynne upon his appointment, which is accepted by the profession as likely to give general satisfaction.

But while glancing at these changes we, in common with the profession at large, do so with a sense of sorrow and regret, not unmingled with certain undefined feelings of doubt as to the future, when we think that he who has of late years been the master-mind of our courts is no longer at the helm, though still in a position where he can be of signal service to his country. We trust it may not be presumptuous in us to express a hope that the example of his dignity, patience, courtesy and attentive industry will be followed by those who occupy seats he formerly filled.

The new Chief Justices were sworn in before His Excellency the Governor-General at Quebec, on the 12th inst. It certainly seems rather hard that their newly acquired dignity

should subject them to such an arduous undertaking as a hurried journey to the extreme end of the Dominion. It would be bad enough to have to go to the Capital, where one might expect to find His Excellency, instead of travelling day and night by rail, a distance of a thousand miles or so. There being some doubt as to whether the Governor-General or the Lieutenant-Governor was the proper person to administer the oaths to the Chief Justices, they were also sworn in by the latter functionary on their return from Quebec.

The Chief Justices of the respective courts on the first day of Term, in open court, administered the required oaths to Mr. Adam Wilson and Mr. Gwynne.

After this form had been completed, the Hon. J. H. Cameron, the Treasurer of the Law Society, in the absence of the Attorney-General, first, in the Queen's Bench, and afterwards in the Common Pleas, congratulated the new Chiefs upon their promotion, and Mr. Gwynne upon his appointment.

Both Chiefs when assuming their new positions in answer to the address of the Treasurer of the Law Society, referred to the good feeling, which at present exists between the Bench and the Bar, and promised to do their best to maintain it.

The appeal of the convict Whelan to the Court of Queen's Bench is ripe for argument, and will be disposed of without delay. It is thought that if the decision of that Court is adverse that he has the right to go to the Court of Error and Appeal, and finally, if necessary, to the House of Lords.

SELECTIONS.

THE FALLACY OF LOCAL TRIBUNALS.

If the wisdom of the Social Science Association were to be measured by its discussion on 'the reorganisation of our Courts, superior and local,' the interest in its proceedings would speedily be limited to those who are charmed with the sound of their own voices. To say nothing new, and to say that little badly, is less than could be expected even from the boldest usurpers of the title of *savans*. Yet the only sense on perusing the speeches delivered at Birmingham on the condition of our judicature is one of entire disappointment. To plead as they do in Chancery, to fuse law and equity, and to substitute local for central jurisdiction, are the specifics discovered by the doctrinaires of the Association. The first two propositions are good enough, but they