

## CITY REGISTRY OFFICE--DIVISION OF LABOR.

that what is everybody's business is nobody's business. Our city fathers with a degree of judgment and public spirit that does them infinite credit, built a thing which they had the hardihood to call, and which they expected the City Registrar to use as a Registry Office, regardless of the remonstrances of the Registrar and members of the profession. Why the Registry Office for the City of Toronto should be in every respect inferior to every similar office Upper Canada, it is hard to say, except perhaps that our municipal matters are managed, if possible, with even more slovenliness and carelessness (as far as concerns the *public*) than those of any other municipality of which we have any knowledge.

But however this may be, there is no doubt of the fact that the City Registrar has removed the books of his office to the extreme west of the City, thereby causing the greatest possible inconvenience and loss of time to the profession and the public; and under the circumstances of no better accommodation being provided for him, he is not generally considered as having acted improperly. He has, we believe, where he is a good safe, and sufficient office room—when you get there; but the office must be moved to some more convenient locality, and when removed must not be held in a building, which, however well it might do for a small smoke house, is not calculated for the Registry Office for the City of Toronto.

Complaints reach us from every side, as to what appear in many cases to be over-charges by Registrars under the late Act. If these Registrars cannot be a little reasonable in their demands, another Act will be necessary, which may considerably reduce their emoluments.

## SELECTIONS.

## DIVISION OF LABOR.

One great instrument in the advancement of modern civilization has been the minute division of labor, that has apportioned work among numerous classes of men, each class doing only one thing. The days in which wool was grown, sheared, cleaned, carded, woven, and made up into clothing under the care of a single family, have long since passed in every civilized state. No plauter of cotton thinks of making his own shirts,—no owner of an iron mine makes his own tools.

Yet something of this old fashioned waste of

labor still prevails among lawyers. The same men practise in all the courts, to a greater or less extent. The same man will draw up a pleading, copy it, direct its service, argue a demurrer to it, try the issues of fact, make up the case, argue the appeal, and enter judgment. Within the same week, he will search a title, make an abstract, prepare a deed and a mortgage, and attend to all branches of conveyancing. He will advise clients upon the law of real estate, insurance, shipping, commercial paper, sales, trust, and crimes of any kind. He will try causes in the common law courts of the state, the surrogate's court, the federal courts, and the criminal courts. He will get out a mandamus, a certiorari, an injunction, an attachment, enter upon a statutory arbitration, push a claim for reduction of taxes, and conduct twenty other dissimilar proceedings, without calling for outside assistance. These, and the hundred other things that a lawyer undertakes, may possibly be done well by an "admirable Crichton" of the bag. But Crichtons are scarce, and bunglers many. We appeal to the consciousness of lawyers in general, to judge whether they are generally able to do such an immense variety of work to advantage. We appeal to the learned judges to say whether their labors are not vastly increased by the shortcomings of a profession which seeks to concentrate all kinds of business in every office—or rather to scatter all business over all the offices. Long practice at such multiplicity of labors may benefit the mind of the lawyer, but what is the expense to the client? Is not such an education in aptitude and readiness too costly?

It seems to us that it would be far more economical, and in every way more advantageous, for lawyers to divide up their work on fair terms. Thus, one who devoted his whole time to real estate business could well afford to do such work for his fellow-lawyers at half price, while a lawyer in active court practice would make a better profit by letting out his real estate matters at half his fees, than he could by doing the work himself. Nearly all lawyers doing an extensive business would find it to their advantage to have their briefs prepared for them by persons specially adapted to that line of work. Some, if not all, of the most eminent members of the bar pursue this system; and their juniors practise a mistaken economy in doing such work themselves, without aid. With a good brief in hand, an argument may be fully prepared in an evening, which, without such assistance, would require a week's study.

The changes which we suggest cannot be made in a day, but we commend them to the reflections of the bar, trusting that our suggestions may lead some of its younger members to aim at perfecting themselves in those branches of law for which their nature, circumstances or training may qualify them, and to resist the temptation to do a little of everything, while doing nothing well.—*N. Y. Transcript.*