

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE LAW SOCIETY.

DIARY FOR MARCH.

1. Thurs. *St. David.*
4. SUN... *3rd Sunday in Lent.*
5. Mon... Recorder's Court sits. Last day for notice of [trial for County Courts.]
11. SUN... *4th Sunday in Lent.*
12. Mon... Last day for service for York and Peel.
13. Tues... Qr. Sessions and Co. Court Sittings in each Co.
15. Thurs. Sittings Court of Error and Appeal.
17. Satur. *St. Patrick.*
18. SUN... *5th Sunday in Lent.*
22. Thurs. Declare for York and Peel.
25. SUN... *6th Sunday in Lent. Lady Day. Annun. V. M.*
30. Friday *Good Friday.*
31. Satur. Last day for notice of trial for York and Peel.

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Few men have done more in their generation towards the improvement and amelioration of the laws of a country than the Hon. John A. Macdonald, the present Attorney General for Upper Canada. No statesman in Canada has so largely contributed by real, practical and permanent measures of law reform to establish the law and its administration on a sound and safe basis. A very large portion of the whole body of our existing statute laws has been placed on the statute book by him, and happily he has been able by wise and well considered legislation to promote the public interests without injury to the body to which he belongs. His efforts, moreover, have always been directed towards securing the independence and elevating the tone of the profession of which he is one of the brightest ornaments. It was fitting then that the profession should in some way mark their appreciation of these services towards themselves and the country at large.

The feeling on this subject found vent in a manner which was as complimentary as it was spontaneous—complimentary inasmuch as it was, with the exception of the reception of the Prince of Wales by the Law Society, only the third occasion on which a similar mark of respect had, so far as we are aware, been paid to anyone—the first being the dinner to the late Sir James Macaulay, and the second that to our late lamented Chief Justice, Sir John Beverley Robinson—and

spontaneous, for all who could, irrespective of party or politics, joined in doing him honor. On the eighth day of February last the Attorney General was entertained at a grand banquet given by the Law Society in the Library of Osgoode Hall. The profession were represented from all parts of the country—the judges of the Superior Courts of Law and Equity, (with the exception of a few unavoidably absent), heads of colleges and collegiate institutions, military commanders, managers of banks and other prominent citizens and members of Parliament were also present as invited guests.

During the course of his remarks, in answer to the able speech of the chairman proposing the toast of the evening, the Attorney general paid a fitting tribute to the memory of the late Sir James Macaulay, and acknowledged the great aid which the government had received at his hands in the amendment and improvement of the laws of the country. In equally complimentary terms he alluded to the assistance received from "the careful hand of that ablest, neatest and most correct of legal draftsmen Chief Justice Draper," in the preparation of the Common Law Procedure Act, and the adaptation of the experience of legal men and the common law of England to the wants, laws and institutions of Canada.

After enlarging upon the services of these eminent men—and of which it would be idle for us further to speak, for every one is more or less intimate with the labours of men, who occupy so conspicuous a figure in Canadian history—he paid perhaps the most graceful compliment of all, when he spoke of one, who, though not holding so high a position, and not so prominently before the public as either of those we have named, is we believe second to none in devotion to the duties of his office, and who, whilst discharging those duties with the utmost exactitude and with much ability, still finds time to add his quota to the cause which every lover of his country has at heart—the improvement of his country's laws. We quote the language of the Attorney General as reported in the columns of a city cotemporary:—

"There is one gentleman at this table to whom, next to Sir James Macaulay and Chief Justice Draper, I owe a debt of gratitude for assistance of this nature; and I am very happy to see him here because he is a judge, not of a superior court, but a judge who would adorn the highest