

Jones, of Massachusetts, on "Legislative Control of Railroads." On Thursday the morning session will be opened by the annual address, by Clarkson N. Porter, of New York, to be followed by the reports of the standing committees, reports of special committees, nomination and election of officers. On Friday, unfinished business, new business, general debate. If the other business of the session will permit, a short paper on "The advantages of a National Bankrupt Law" will be read by Samuel Wagner, of Philadelphia.

THE LATE LORD BEACONSFIELD.

It is stated, on the authority of Mr. Ralph Disraeli, that the late Lord Beaconsfield, after serving for a certain time as articled clerk in the Old Jewry, entered as a student of Lincoln's Inn and kept several terms, although he was not called to the bar. "J. C. B." states that Lord Beaconsfield became nominally a pupil of his cousin, the late eminent conveyancer, Mr. Nathaniel Basevi, "who told me, some years afterwards, that 'Ben Disraeli' showed no liking for law, and generally occupied himself at chambers with a book, brought somewhat late in the day by himself. The work I remember as having been particularised was Spencer's 'Faerie Queen', bound in green morocco."

Mr. George H. Parkinson, of the central office, Royal Courts of Justice, has published the following extract from his diary of 1852, when he was clerk to Baron Parke:—"Saturday, June 12, 1852. Mr. Disraeli, the new chancellor of the Exchequer, came down about two, to be sworn in. He was quite alone; and Davis, the usher, showed him into the judges' private room, where I happened to be arranging some papers. I placed him in a chair, and said I would go and tell the judges he had arrived. In a few minutes they came in—Lord Chief Baron Pollock, Barons Parke, Alderson, Rolfe and Platt. All seemed to know him, and all talked and laughed together. His new black silk robe, heavily embroidered with gold bullion fringe and lace, was lying across a chair. 'Here, get on your gown,' said Baron Alderson; you'll find it monstrously heavy.' 'Oh, I find it uncommonly light,' said the new chancellor. 'Well, it's heavy with what makes other things light,' said the Lord Chief Baron. 'Now, what am I to say and do in this performance?' was the next question.

'Why, you'll first be sworn in by Vincent, and then you'll sit down again; and if you look to the extreme left of the first row of counsel you will see a rather tall man looking at you. That is Mr. Willes out of court, but Mr. Tubman in court; and you must say, 'Mr. Tubman, have you anything to move?' He will make his motion, and when he sits down you must say, 'Take a rule, Mr. Tubman,' and that will be the end of the affair.'

"The ushers were summoned, and all marched to the Bench—Baron Platt as junior Baron first, Mr. Disraeli last, immediately preceded by the Lord Chief Baron. Mr. Vincent, the Queen's Remembrancer, administered the ancient oath in Norman French, I think. Mr. Tubman (afterwards Mr. Justice Willes) made some fictitious motion, was duly desired to 'take a rule,' and the chancellor and barons returned to the private room. 'Well, I must say you fellows have easy work to do, if this is a specimen,' said Mr. Disraeli. 'Now, don't you think that, or you'll be cutting down our salaries,' replied one of the judges. 'Take care of that robe,' said Baron Alderson; you can leave it to your son when the Queen makes him a chancellor.' Oh, no; you've settled that business,' said the new chancellor; 'you'd decide that was fettering the Royal Prerogative.' There was a general roar at this witty allusion to a very important case just decided in the House of Lords, in which the Peers had held that a large monetary bequest by the late Earl of Bridgewater to his son, on condition that he should obtain the title of Duke within a certain time, was void, on the ground that it was a fettering of the Royal prerogative."

TAKING CASES ON SPECULATION.

The *Albany Law Journal* and Judge Countryman have been carrying on an ethical controversy, more curious than edifying, we fear, to the laity, on the subject of taking cases on "speculation." The judge says that the practice is perfectly right, and even praiseworthy; that poor suitors, if they could make no arrangements to retain counsel out of the proceeds of the suit, would often find themselves unable to prosecute their rights, and that such arrangements are sanctioned by the courts. The *Law Journal*, on the other hand, strongly rebukes this view; insists that though the courts may tolerate the