

## DIARY FOR MAY.

1 SUNDAY... 1st Sunday after Easter.  
 8 SUNDAY... 2nd Sunday after Easter.  
 12 Thursday... University of Toronto Session of Senate begins.  
 15 SUNDAY... 3rd Sunday after Easter.  
 4 Monday ... EASTER Term begins.  
 8 Wednesday Trinity College EASTER Term ends.  
 20 Friday..... Paper Day, Q. B.  
 21 Saturday... Paper Day, C. P. Last day for serving Writ for County Courts.  
 22 SUNDAY... 4th Sunday after Easter.  
 23 Monday ... Paper Day, Q. B.  
 24 Tuesday ... Paper Day, C. P.  
 25 Wednesday Paper Day, Q. B.  
 26 Thursday .. Paper Day, C. P.  
 29 Saturday ... EASTER Term ends.  
 29 SUNDAY... 5th Sunday after Easter.  
 31 Tuesday ... } Last day for declaring for County Court. Last day for Court of  
 } Keston finally to revise Assessment Rolls.

## IMPORTANT BUSINESS NOTICE.

Persons indebted to the Proprietors of this Journal are requested to remember that all our past due accounts have been placed in the hands of Messrs. Fulton & Arlugh, Attorneys, Barris, for collection; and that only a prompt remittance to them will save costs.

It is with great reluctance that the Proprietors have adopted this course; but they have been compelled to do so in order to enable them to meet their current expenses, which are very heavy.

Now that the usefulness of the Journal is so generally admitted, it would not be unreasonable to expect that the Profession and Officers of the Courts would accord it a liberal support, instead of allowing themselves to be sued for their subscriptions.

## The Upper Canada Law Journal.

MAY, 1859.

## ENGLAND IN OUR WAKE.

Sir R. Bethell's perseverance has triumphed, and the profession is indebted to him for the adoption by the Inns of Court of that which has been so long demanded, a compulsory examination into general acquirements before admission as a student; and an examination into the aspirant's legal qualifications before his call to the bar.

So says the Editor of the *Law Times* in a recent number:

Be it known to our respected co-laborer (the talented author of the *Advocate*), and all whom it may concern, that in this particular reform, as in many others, young Canada has taken the lead of old England."

Our first Parliament was assembled in 1792, and the Legislature at once declared that the laws of England should be the rule for the decision of all controversies relative to civil rights, &c. In 1797, a Law Society was incorporated by Act of Parliament, and since then no person is in general permitted to practice at the bar of any of Her Majesty's Courts in this country unless he has previously been admitted into the Society as a student of the Laws, been five years on the books, and conformed himself to the rules and regulations of the Society.

By the rules of the Society no person can be admitted as a student unless found on a full and strict examination to be by habits, character and education duly qualified for admission. The student must attend a prescribed course of lectures, and after remaining on all the books of the Society for five years, must again submit to an examina-

tion as to his legal and general attainments, and if found properly qualified for call he is admitted to the degree of Barrister-at-Law. The course prescribed by the Society was from the first respectable,—late rules have wisely enlarged the requirements.

The Law Society of Upper Canada was incorporated, in the words of the preamble, for the purpose of securing to the Province a learned and honorable body to assist their fellow subjects and support and maintain the Constitution. It was well calculated to insure the respectability of the profession, and has most satisfactorily fulfilled its object.

The members of the Upper Canada bar were and are what they profess to be, having in very deed been students of the laws, and having been on examination found qualified for call, upon being called to the bar they come before the public duly accredited as lawyers in reality.

In England the same title, the same social position, the same honors are permitted to the ignorant as to the educated, and the whole class may well be said to be degraded by the uncertainty as to whether its members are what they profess to be. The required number of dinners *must* have been eaten, that is all. But as we said before many other law reforms were carried into practical operation here years before they were adopted in England,—two occur to us at this moment—the absconding debtors' law, which has been in force with us for more than 20 years; and the general system of local judicatories which was established in Upper Canada in 1847, just five years before the same system was introduced into England; for the Division Courts of Upper Canada and the County Courts of England are almost identical as systems of local jurisprudence, and very similar in all their details.

## MUNICIPAL LAW REFORM.

It is provided by the Assessment Act of 1853, that the assessor or assessors for each township, village and ward shall prepare an assessment roll, in which after diligent enquiry shall be set down in different columns, and according to the best information in their power the names and surnames in full if the same can be ascertained of all taxable parties resident in the township, village or ward, and of all non-resident freeholders who shall either in person or in writing have required such assessor to enter their names and the land owned by them in the roll, together with the description and extent or amount of property assessable against each, and containing the particulars mentioned in the schedule appended to the Act, for each of the items whereof the assessment roll is to contain a separate column. (16 Vic., cap. 182, sec. 17.)

The assessment is to be completed in every year between