

with the new causes will probably swell the new calendar to 800 causes. This is a very serious event. This court has for twelve years been the only court in the United States that has kept up with its business. But at what a sacrifice of life and health! Judges Church, Peckham, Grover and Allen literally worked themselves to death, and other members of the court have seriously impaired their health in their hopeless undertaking."

A good many suggestions are made as to the mode in which relief is to be obtained. The one most favored seems to be the enlargement of the court so that all the judges need not sit at once, and in this way almost continuous sittings could be maintained.

PATENTS IN ENGLAND.

On the 1st of January a new patent act came into force in Great Britain, by which the system of obtaining patents is simplified, and a considerable reduction is effected in the cost. The expense of procuring a patent in England is now about the same as in the United States. Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and the Channel Islands are included in the protection. A valid patent cannot be obtained if the article to be patented has been introduced into the country, or copies of a United States patent have been open for general inspection in such a way that the public may be presumed to have knowledge of them, as in a reading room, library, etc., before application is made for the patent in England. Each application for a patent must be confined to one invention. No examination is made to determine ownership. The original declaration and provisional specification go to an examiner only to see that the invention is fairly described and correctly named. Patents are granted jointly to the inventor with others, but there must be a declaration from the inventor that he is the true and first inventor.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE.

We can hardly credit a statement made by the New York *Evening Post*, and copied by the *Chicago Legal News*, that "a large proportion of the Judges hold railroad passes, and have asked for them, or have, in other

" words, incurred obligations to railroad companies which ought to disqualify them, but do not, for sitting on any railroad case, and which the law ought to make a punishable and disgraceful offence."

If there be any truth in this, it is not so surprising that the entertainers of a distinguished English Judge should have applied for railroad passes in Canada. Here the Judges leave that sort of thing to city aldermen.

A DIFFERENT PICTURE.

A keen and disinterested observer who has passed five years in Canada, and has spent a good portion of the time in visiting the different sections of the country—we refer to the Marquis of Lorne—gives a very different account of the Dominion from that which we extracted recently from the pages of our sadly befogged contemporary, the *American Law Review*. In his address at the Royal Colonial Institute in London, the Marquis foreshadowed the fast approaching change of Imperial and Colonial relations in these terms:—

"These islands have 35 millions of people. Canada has now 5,000,000. Australia will soon have 4,000,000. Britain has for the small area she possesses greater resources in coal and other wealth, but it may be well for her to remember how little of the earth's surface she possesses in comparison with her children. (Hear, hear.) The area of Canada and of the Australian States is so vast, the fertility of their soil is so remarkable, the healthfulness of their climate is so well proved, and the rapid increase of their white population is so certain, that within the lifetime of the children of gentlemen here present their numbers will equal our own. In another century they must be greatly superior to us in men and material of wealth. (Hear, hear.) How foolish, therefore, will our successors in England deem us to have been if we do not meet to the fullest degree possible the wishes of these growing States."

We trust our good neighbour of St. Louis will come and see for himself, and even if he chooses the week of our winter carnival for his visit, we doubt not that he will have reason to revise his estimate of us.