

after the end of this year. We shall, however, reserve full space (and our borders will be enlarged for that purpose) for the discussion of all matters affecting the Local Courts and County and Municipal officers, and we trust to receive the same support from our friends "of that ilk" as formerly. We must, moreover, owing to the increased price of printing and all other expenses, increase our annual subscription to the *Law Journal*, which we shall send to the present subscribers of the *Local Courts' Gazette* unless they express a desire to discontinue their subscription.

We thank our many kind friends among the County and Division Court officers for their support, and for many expressions of satisfaction and good-will. We trust they will be able to continue their support and encouragement when the *Local Courts' Gazette* shall have again merged in the *Canada Law Journal*.

Our advertising columns announce the publication of a new work by Mr. S. R. Clarke, of Toronto, Barrister-at-Law, on the Criminal Law of Canada, which we have reason to think will be not only a success in itself, but also of immense service to the Profession and Magistracy in the Dominion at large. We have not yet had an opportunity of examining it, but a cursory glance would seem to show that it will prove a most valuable treatise on the criminal law as it applies to this country.

A pretty fair test of the confidence of the public and profession in their Judges is the number of appeals from their decisions. A return to an address of the House of Commons of Canada gives a statement of the number of cases taken before the Privy Council in 1869, 1870 and 1871, from Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and the information given is highly suggestive. There have been only two cases actually appealed from Ontario; and though appeal bonds were filed in two other cases, no further action will probably be taken in them. Quebec has sent no less than twenty-one cases to the Privy Council, six in 1869, five in 1870, and ten in 1871. This points to a pleasant state of uncertainty in the minds of the profession in the Province of Quebec, as to what the law is in a variety of cases, and shews a laudable desire on the part of the litigants "to get to the bottom of it." The

Supreme Court of New Brunswick has, during the same period, granted leave to appeal in six cases; but the courage of those concerned has partly failed them, for only three have been transmitted to England, and no action appears to have been taken in these. Only one case has been appealed during the same three years from Nova Scotia; and the further information is given in the return, that only three cases in all have been taken to England from that Province since 1860, when Sir Wm. Young was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. It will thus be seen that, taking into consideration the business done in Ontario, the number of appeals is almost nominal as compared with Quebec, and much less than those in the other Provinces. The encouragement given to those who desire to have a *final* decision is not very great; for, out of all the cases referred to England, judgments have been given in only three of the Quebec appeals, and in none of the others; two of the Quebec judgments having been reversed, and one confirmed.

We lately culled out a few judicial strictures upon the way in which some of the Canadian County Court Judges do their work. We observe from a late judgment of Sir Robt. Phillimore, in an Admiralty appeal, that his spirit has been vexed from a like cause. He mildly called attention to the fact that there were two things which concurred to render it impossible for the court to come to any satisfactory conclusion on the materials before it. First, it appeared that the notes of the evidence were merely rough notes taken by the learned Judge of the County Court of Northumberland for his own guidance, and though no doubt (as he charitably puts it) sufficient for his purpose, yet they could not be regarded as satisfactory for the purpose of an appeal. Second, that he (Sir Robert) was without the assistance which, in many cases of the kind, he had derived from a statement of the reasons which influenced the court below in arriving at the decision appealed against. *The Busy Bee*, 20 W. R. 813. From all which it would appear that there are County Court Judges who are alike all the world over.

A friend lately sent us a West Indian newspaper, which contains the charge of Chief Justice Peel to the Grand Jury at Antigua. It appears that one result of the confederation