

THE COURTS OF THE SISTER PROVINCES.

ment of special cases and demurrers. Appeals lie thence to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

The following are the judges of the Supreme Court, five of whom by a recent act constitute a quorum :

Chief Justice Sir William Young, K.C.B. ; Hon. James W. Johnston, Hon. Edmund M. Dodd, Hon. Frederick W. DesBarres, Hon. Lewis M. Wilkins, Hon. John N. Ritchie, Hon. Jonathan McCully. Henry Oldright, Esq., is Reporter to the Court.

THE EQUITY COURT.

This Court, with its single judge presiding, is always open, and discharges the functions of the equity side of the Supreme Court, the Judge in Equity being also a Judge of the Supreme Court. Its jurisdiction, powers, &c., are identical with those of the Court of Chancery in England. Its forms of pleadings are those at Common Law, but modified to suit circumstances. The present Equity Court was organized and established by a recent Provisional Statute. Its sittings are always held at Halifax.

Judge in Equity : Hon. James W. Johnston.

THE PRACTICE COURT,

Or Chambers wherein one of the Judges presides, is held every Tuesday at Halifax during the year, except in vacation. The duties and powers incident to this Court are the same as those exercised by Judges at Chambers in England, but somewhat modified and more extensive. The matters which most engage the attention of this Court are motions to amend pleadings, for leave to plead and demur, to refer causes to arbitration, to set aside pleas, &c., &c. A Judge at Chambers on the first Tuesday of every month, except in vacation, hears and determines in a summary way all suits and appeals for sums under \$80, and cases of forcible entry and detainer, &c.

THE COURT FOR DIVORCE AND MATRIMONIAL CAUSES.

The jurisdiction of this Court embraces all matters relating to prohibited marriages and divorces, and has power to declare any marriage null and void for impotence, adultery, cruelty, or kindred, within the degrees prohibited in the 32 Hen. VIII. Its practice and procedure are similar to that of the like court in England, except that co-respondents are not amenable to its jurisdiction, and juries are

not used, the judge having the exclusive right to try the issues in fact as well as to determine the law in all cases. The judge also has power to make rules and regulations to govern the practice. Appeals lie to the Supreme Court *in banco* in all cases, except on mere questions of costs. It has no stated periods of sittings, is always open, and sits as occasion requires. Its sittings are always held at Halifax.

Judge ordinary : Hon. James W. Johnston. Registrar, James H. Thorne, Esq.

THE COURT OF VICE ADMIRALTY.

The jurisdiction of this Court may be said to extend to all maritime suits and causes. It also has jurisdiction in prize causes, and is the Court where prosecutions for violation of the Fishery laws are conducted ; in a word, its jurisdiction, functions, &c., are the same as those of like courts in the other maritime Provinces. It always sits at Halifax.

Judge and Commissary General, Sir William Young, K.C.B. Registrar, Lewis W. DesBarres.

THE COURTS OF PROBATE.

These Courts, of which there is one in every County of the Province, and two where the County happens to be divided, grant Probate and has testamentary jurisdiction over the estates of deceased persons, with power to appoint guardian to minors, children of persons who die intestate. Its practice and procedure are prescribed by the statutes of Nova Scotia, so far as they go, otherwise that of the Ecclesiastical Courts of England prevail and are followed. The laws of Nova Scotia regarding probate, the administration of estates, and the distribution of the estates of persons who die intestate, are based largely upon the English Statute of Distribution, &c., but somewhat assimilated to the laws in that respect prevailing in Massachusetts. Appeals lie from these Courts to the Judge in Equity at Halifax, and thence to the Supreme Court *in banco*.

THE INSOLVENCY COURTS,

Being created by "The Insolvent Act of 1869," have the same powers, jurisdiction, &c., as like Courts in the other Provinces of the Dominion.

THE COURTS OF SESSIONS,

Sits in the County of Halifax quarterly, and in some Counties twice, in others once a year. The Custos of the County preside. This Court is composed of the Custos, together with the