

EDITORIAL ITEMS.

to succeed him. Mr. Cummings was an excellent officer, but his health was not equal to the sedentary life and bad air of Osgoode Hall. Mr. Ault will form a valuable acquisition to the Registrar's Staff.

At a banquet given by the Philadelphia bar to Chief Justice Thompson, on his retirement from the bench, one of the speakers read a letter which Lord Mansfield had written to a former head of the Supreme Court of the State, Chief Justice McKean, in acknowledgment of the receipt of a copy of Dallas' Reports. The letter reads thus:—

Sir: I am not able to write with my own hand, and must, therefore, beg leave to use another to acknowledge the honor you have done me, by your most obliging and elegant letter, and the sending me Dallas' Reports.

I am not able to read myself, but I have heard them read with much pleasure. They do credit to the Court, the Bar, and the Reporter; they show readiness in practice, liberality in principle, strong reason and legal learning; the method, too, is clear, and the language plain.

I undergo the weight of age, and other bodily infirmities, but blessed be God! my mind is cheerful, and still open to that sensibility, which praise from the praise-worthy never fails to give. *Laus laudari a te.* Accept the thanks of,

Sir, your most obliged,

And obedient humble servant,

MANSFIELD.

Judge Nelson, a member of the Supreme Court of the United States, lately resigned after occupying the bench for 50 years, of which 22 years was passed as a judge of his native State of New York, and the other 28 as one of the justices of the Supreme Court. The *Albany Law Journal* says that such length of judicial service is without precedent in the States or England, and doubts whether it has a parallel in the history of jurisprudence. Dr. Lushington served 40 years, Lord Mansfield 32 years, and Lord Eldon, 28 years, and they were the longest on the bench of Great Britain. In the States

Chief Justice Marshall was 34 years on the bench; Chief Justice Taney, 30 years; Judge Story, 34 years, and Chancellor Kent, about 25 years.

It may be interesting to note that Pollock, C. B., was 82 years of age when he retired from the Exchequer, while in Ireland Mr. Blackburne was appointed Chancellor when he was 84, and Lefroy, C. J., retained office till he had reached the age of 92. At present the oldest Judge in England is Sir Fitzroy Kelly, who is 76, and in Ireland Chief Baron Pigot, who is 72.

We are indebted to the courtesy of Mr. Meagher, Barrister, of Halifax, for several important and interesting decisions in the Province of Nova Scotia. Both Mr. Meagher and Mr. Bligh, also a barrister in Halifax, kindly sent us a note of a case decided by the Chief Justice, Sir Wm. Young, on the Insolvent Act of 1869, which brought up the question of priority as between an attachment creditor and an assignee on a compulsory liquidation. It appears that the plaintiffs issued an attachment under the Absconding Debtors Act, (which is much the same as ours), about the middle of September last, and soon after obtained an order for the sale of the property attached, on the ground of it being perishable—the proceeds to be held by the Sheriff to answer the final disposition of the cause. The property was sold about the first of October, and some twenty days afterwards the defendant's estate was placed in compulsory liquidation under the Insolvent Act of 1869. The assignee of defendant's estate applied to the Chief Justice for an order to compel the Sheriff to pay the proceeds of this sale to him on the ground that by the issue of the writ of attachment under the Insolvent Act, the assignee became entitled to the money in the Sheriff's possession. The Chief Justice how-