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## DIARY FOR OCTOBER.

1. Sat..... Wm. D. Powell, 5th C. J. of Q. B., 1816.
2. Sun..... 17th Sunday after Trinity.
3. Mon..... C. C. term and sittings for trial of non-jury cases begin (except in York).
7. Fri..... Henry Alcock, 3rd C. J. of Q. B., 1852.
8. Sat..... C. C. term (except in York) ends. R. A. Harrison, 11 C. J. of Q. B., 1875.
9. Sun..... 18th Sunday after Trinity.
10. Mon..... C. C. term begins.
13. Thur..... Battle of Queenston, 1812. Lord Lyndhurst died, 1853, ant. 92.

TORONTO, OCTOBER 1, 1887.

MR. JUSTICE GROVE has retired from the English Bench after sixteen years' service. Mr. Arthur Charles, Q.C., has been appointed his successor, and the appointment meets with general approbation. The new judge is in the prime of life, having been born in 1839.

Nor the least important change wrought by the Judicature Act is that which it has effected in the nature of the qualifications which it is now necessary for those to possess, who would aspire properly to fill the judicial office. Time was, when a man fairly versed in the common law and the criminal law might hope to make a reasonably good judge, and to satisfactorily discharge all the duties that he would be called on to perform in his judicial capacity, even though he might be supremely ignorant of the first principles of equity jurisprudence. So on the other hand a man well versed in equity, though ignorant of the practical workings of the common, and criminal, law, might nevertheless aspire to shine as a great equity judge. The subdivision of the law, formerly so acutely defined, no doubt had this advantage, that it permitted men to

become more profoundly skilled in that particular branch of law to which they devoted themselves. Notwithstanding the recent fusion of law and equity, and the amalgamation of the courts, English jurisprudence is, in spite of all attempts at its simplification, still so vast and complicated a system, dealing as it does with all the intricacies arising from a highly civilized social system, that from its very nature, few men can hope to have the capacity to thoroughly master every branch of it in all its details. And yet this is the burthen which is now laid upon every man who aspires to judicial honours. Few men at the Bar, in the generation of lawyers now passing away, have adequately filled the rôle of first class "all round" lawyers, if we may use the expression—the late Chief Justice Moss perhaps alone excepted; and it is perhaps too much to expect that the coming generation will be more productive of such versatile intellects.

What then is likely to be the future of the Bench in this Province? Are we to expect to see men whose training has been exclusively confined to the principles of equity struggling, after they have attained the bench, to master criminal, and common law; or, on the other hand, men who have confined their attention to criminal law, groping their way through the mysteries of equity jurisprudence? It is to be hoped not. At the same time we may be sure that the Bench will be but a reflex of the Bar, and it will be necessary, if this result is to be avoided, for the members of the Bar to give up the system heretofore in vogue, of confining their attention to one particular branch of law. Those who aspire to the Bench must remember that the old sys-