

BENCH AND BAR.

If the Bar of Ontario complain occasionally of a judge who works them too hard, we hear of one in England who has recently been hauled over the coals for vagaries of an opposite character. The delinquent is a no less exalted personage than Chief Justice Coleridge, and so far as one can judge at this distance we should say, "Served him right." He seems to think he has a right to keep suitors, counsel, solicitors, witnesses, etc., waiting after the appointed time for holding courts until it suits his pleasure to appear. On a recent occasion he was due at court at 10.30 a.m., but did not appear until after 12. But then, as was remarked, he made it up by rising at 3.15 instead of 4 p.m., thus resurrecting the old joke of Charles Lamb, who, when rebuked for arriving late in the morning at the India office, promptly excused himself by saying, "But then, you see, I always go away so early in the afternoon." On this occasion the important matter that called him away was to propose a vote of thanks to the chairman of a meeting held in reference to the duty of the National Church toward the aged poor. A contemporary remarks hereupon: "We have no hesitation in declaring that Lord Coleridge would be far more profitably employed in considering his own duty towards suitors. He informed the distinguished company at Lambeth Palace that lawyers see too much of the weakness of humanity. We agree with his lordship; his own unpunctuality is a weakness that threatens to assume the proportions of a public scandal."

The *Law Gazette* thus alludes to a somewhat similar dereliction of duty: "When it was announced that the Lord Chief Justice would attend the jubilee banquet of the Early Closing Association, there was scarcely a member of the profession who did not immediately perceive a measure of appropriateness in his attendance. He has been given for some years to enjoying what in humbler walks of life are known as 'days off.' It was with something like keen regret, therefore, that the Bar heard of his lordship's inability to attend the banquet. His speech would have found many careful readers in the Temple, who would have recognized that his words were those of one in most hearty sympathy with the objects of the association. But Lord Coleridge expressed his sympathy in a far more effective fashion than by a speech. On the very day on which