not whether there is any excuse or technical right claimed by the judge in question; and it is quite possible that Mr. Justice Britton was a director before the above statute was passed and very probably has a large interest in the company, and is much interested in its wefare; but so also were Chancellor Boyd, Chief Justice Meredith and Mr. Justice MacMahon interested in the companies of which they were directors; but they thought it proper to obey the law, and relinquish the emoluments which came to them as such directors. Surely it would be well if their example were followed. A judge occupies a very exalted position, and that position has commensurate responsibilities and obligations. We venture to think that the profession at large recognizes the propriety of the enactment in question, and will endorse the sentiment so strongly expressed by such a one as the Lord Chief Justice of England.

THE FALLACY OF THE DOCTRINE OF PUBLIC POLICY.

A member of the Maryland Bar, W. Irvine Cross, gives the readers of the *Central Law Journal* his views on this subject in an interesting article, which we reproduce. This is a very timely warning. In the conclusion of the article he speaks of the "judicial outrages that have disgraced our history in times of excitement." In this country we have not been afflicted in that way. The outrages have been, so far as the Province of Ontario is concerned, by the legislature. We would commend the following criticism to their attention so that there may, if possible, be no more such outrageous legislation. The article is as follows:—

The doctrine of Public Policy bears about the same relation to the law that the vermiform appendix does to the body—a vestigial doctrine having little function but to start trouble.

The essence of the doctrine, so far as formulated, seems to be that a judge should not simply pass upon the rights of the parties before him, but should be considering, also, how his decision will affect the public, or how it will be looked at by it. Chief Justice Wilmot, an earnest believer in the doctrine, puts it in these