

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

VERDEZ.—Your letter is under consideration. We quite agree in your conclusions. *Widdowburn*, when twitted with seeking office by undue means, corrupting the fountains of Justice, said: "I have never solicited office. I will not go to it, it shall come to me. I look upon the office (in question) in its nature as so delicate that it is unfit for solicitation"; and in this every right thinking mind must agree; but our impression is, that publicity at this time would do no good.

QUEZZ.—There is no just cause of complaint; nor do we think that under the circumstances the sentence was at all severe. There is a case of *Lacey* too, in which *Richards, R.* is reported to have said: "The prisoner not being in depressed or impoverished circumstances aggravates the offence. If a person inferior in point of education, of character, and means, commits an offence such as this, it strikes me they are less morally guilty than a person of the rank and condition of the prisoner." (see C. C. C. Vol. 7, page 4); there was clearly no good reason for mitigating the punishment in the case to which you refer.

R. C. L.—It would serve no good purpose if your letter appeared. The very serious difficulty to which you refer will be settled by the Attorney-General's Common Law Procedure Act Bill, which repeals the objectionable clause.

J.—Send in the case by all means; write only on one side of the paper.

J. R.—We feel much gratified by your favourable opinion of the *Journal*. You will see attention has been given to the matters referred to.

J. M.—You have already our answer. Please yourself about the withdrawal of your subscription. We cannot consent to be the vehicle of mere tirade by disappointed parties.

T. R. (Spencerville).—The County Treasurer's have been notified of the construction put on the item referred to in *Tarif*; and you must govern yourself accordingly.

TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

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Barrie, U. C.

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Advertisements should reach the office not later than the 25th of each month.

THE UPPER CANADA LAW JOURNAL is published at the *Barrie Herald* Office, Dunlop Street, Barrie.

THE LAW JOURNAL.

APRIL, 1856.

THE BENCH AND THE BAR-ROOM.

We have before us several Communications respecting the sittings of Division Courts in Taverns, the disorder in such Courts, and the great inconvenience and annoyance to suitors and their professional agents consequent thereon.

Let us see where the fault lies. There is no proper provision in the Division Courts Act for securing accommodation for holding the Courts.

In Townships where a Town Hall has been erected by the Municipalities, the use of it is commonly given; and it is the same with respect to Common School Houses and Temperance Halls: but the bodies or individuals having the control of these buildings are under no obligation to allow them to be so used. "It is true," as Judge Burns stated in his published letter in 1847, "that the hospitality of the people of the country is great in respect of these accommodations; but it is not right that the Courts should depend upon that, or that it should be expected individuals should furnish such things gratuitously for the community."

But if there happen to be no such buildings in the place where it is desirable to hold a Court, the only alternative seems to be the removal to another locality, or holding the Court in a Tavern. In any case under the present system the Officers have the place at sufferance, and are liable to be turned out at the will or caprice of the person affording the accommodation. Judge Burns, in the letter referred to, complained that it was a great oversight in the Act that the current expenses for fuel, lights, and the use of a room or building was not provided for. "It has happened," said he, "that the Judge has been obliged to adjourn the Court after going to the place appointed for it, because the person, at whose house it was holden, took it into his head to withhold the permission any longer. It has also been the case that the Judge has been obliged to pay out of his own pocket for fuel to warm the room—and, when he has been unable to finish his cause list before dark, to pay for candles, rather than adjourn over till the next day. No one could imagine that either the Judge or Officers should pay these charges, or be obliged to furnish a room. There must have been an oversight in the Legislature," &c.

Judge Burns proposed to remedy this by adopting the provision of the English Act respecting similar Courts, and it is to be regretted that the Legislature while carrying out many other valuable suggestions made by him for the improvement of the Division Courts, did not adopt the learned Judge's suggestion in this particular also.

The Clerks fees are in some Divisions so small that they could not afford to pay for the necessary