

THE COURTS OF THE SISTER PROVINCES.

DIARY FOR JANUARY.

1. SUN. *1st Sunday after Christmas.*
2. Mon. Municipal Elections. Heir and Devisee Sittings begin. County Court Term begins.
6. Frid. *Epiphany.* Christmas vacation in Chancery ends. County Court Term ends.
8. SUN. *1st Sunday after Epiphany.*
9. Mon. County York Assizes begin. Election of Police Trustees in Police Villages.
11. Wed. Election of School Trustees in Toronto. Master and Register in Chancery to pay over fees to Provincial Treasurer.
12. Thur. Court of Error and Appeal sits.
14. Sat. Last day for Common School Trustees to report to Local Superintendent. Trustees and Chairmen of Municipalities to make returns to Board of Audit.
15. SUN. *2nd Sunday after Epiphany.*
16. Mon. Municipal Councils (except Counties) and Treasurers of Police Villages to hold first meeting.
17. Tues. Heir and Devisee Sittings end.
21. Sat. Articles, &c., to be left with Sec. Law Society.
22. SUN. *3rd Sunday after Epiphany.*
24. Tues. First Meeting of County Councils.
28. SUN. *4th Sunday after Epiphany.*
30. Mon. School Finance Report to Board of Audit. Last day for Non-Resid. to give list of their lands.
31. Tues. Last day for City and County Clerks to make yearly returns to Provincial Secretary. Last day for Councils to report debts, &c.

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COURTS OF THE SISTER PROVINCES.
NOVA SCOTIA.

The closer commercial and political relations now being cultivated between the different Provinces of the Dominion can in no way be better cemented than by diffusing as widely as possible, within the limits of Dominion territory, correct information upon all those topics in which each section feels a common interest and pride with the others.

A few years ago Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were to us in the west places of comparative indifference, and we knew but little of the people, institutions or resources of the Provinces. But the times have changed, and already an interest has been awakened, and a degree of anxious inquiry created amongst us, concerning our eastern brethren, which we have reason to believe they heartily reciprocate, and which promises to be productive of lasting benefit to the whole Dominion.

Anxious therefore further to increase this interest, and stimulate this spirit of inquiry into still greater activity, as well as to fulfil the duties which come legitimately within our sphere, we give to our readers in this issue a sketch of the Courts of Nova Scotia, their

powers, functions, officials, &c., which we hope will, so far as that Province is concerned, accomplish the end we have in view.

We may mention that our information is from an authentic source in Nova Scotia, whence also we hope to be able to obtain occasionally for publication short notes of important decisions, which will afford our professional readers at least a knowledge of the laws and legal procedure of that Province that cannot fail to be of interest.

THE SUPREME COURT.

The Supreme Court for the Province of Nova Scotia (having an Equity side over which the Equity Judge presides) exercises the same powers as are exercised by the Courts of Queen's Bench, Common Pleas, Chancery and Exchequer in England. Its original jurisdiction being both legal and equitable, embraces all kinds of actions, causes and suits, criminal and civil, real and personal, except actions for debt under \$20, in which case it exercises only appellate jurisdiction. It also has power to avoid patents of land by process of escheat, and possesses concurrent jurisdiction with the Vice Admiralty Court, under an Imperial Statute, for the trial of persons charged with the commission of crimes and misdemeanours on the high seas. Its practice and procedure are prescribed by the revised statutes of Nova Scotia, based upon and assimilated to the English Common Law Procedure Act. In cases not specially provided for by the statutes its practice and proceedings conform, as nearly as may be, to the practice and proceedings of the Superior Courts of Common Law in force previous to the first year of the reign of William IV., the proceedings and practice of the Court of Queen's Bench in England, however, prevailing where those Courts differ from each other. This court, presided over by any one of the judges, holds two Sessions a year for trials of issues in fact, and of Oyer, Terminer and General Gaol Delivery, in every County of the Province. In Halifax County those Sessions are called Sittings, and elsewhere they are designated Terms.

The Supreme Court also sits twice a year *in banco* at Halifax for hearing arguments of rules for new trials, appeals from the Sessions of the Equity Court, the Courts of Insolvency, Courts of Probate, Courts of Sessions, and from orders and decisions of single judges sitting at Chambers, as well as for the argu-