

The Canadian Bar Association owes its birth to the year just past. The promoters of this association deserve credit and encouragement for their efforts and the success they have met with. We fear, however, that the cart has been put before the horse in this matter, as, in our opinion, provincial bar associations should precede the formation of a Dominion association. The latter should be a federation of the local associations of the provinces. But the good work has commenced, let it go on; reforms will come when and where necessary.

The province was honoured during the year by a flying visit from the Lord Chief Justice of England, Lord Russell of Killowen. It was thought at the time that so distinguished a personage should have received a more fitting reception than was accorded him. From a certain standpoint this is true, and from another point of view there is room for another opinion. The Lord Chief Justice came here in vacation, when both Bench and Bar were largely out of town. His Lordship's visit to the United States was a formal one to attend the meeting of the American Bar Association. His visit here was a rest and recreation. It was a bit of vacation which we trust was enjoyed by his Lordship after a period of more or less anxiety among our good neighbours, who entertained him most handsomely.

We are happy to mention the fact that the grim reaper has not made a very bountiful harvest among the Bench and Bar during '96. No prominent members of the Law Society have been removed by death. The Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal has, it is true, obtained leave of absence; but we trust he will long be spared to us, even after he retires from his official duties.

A new crop of Benchers bloomed and blossomed in the spring days of last May. Quite a raid was made upon the Toronto Benchers by the members of the profession outside. The cry was got up in the country that everything legal was being centralized too much in Toronto. Although this was merely a cry without any apparent merit, it nevertheless succeeded, and we regret to record the fact that several of the most experienced and hard-working Toronto Benchers were not re-elected. The proportion of elected Benchers resident in Toronto is now altogether too small. One evil result of the election of so many outside men has already manifested itself (at least if we are correctly informed by Mr. Nobody). We understand it has been suggested that the travelling expenses of non-resident Benchers should be paid. This is too startling for anything. After about a century of honorary services rendered by the Benchers of the Law Society of Upper Canada. Travelling expenses!!! Will the out-of-town