

JUDICIAL CHANGES.—LORD BROUGHAM.

position is such, that it would seem unlikely that he would accept it. He is young, full of strength and energy, ambitious, in receipt of a large income from his profession, much larger we doubt not than the salary of office would be; he is on the threshold of political life, a rising and successful counsel with no equal at the Chancery bar, with the single exception of Mr. Strong (who is said to be in some respects even his superior, but has no claim on political grounds), and altogether with such prospects before him, that it is difficult to believe that he would be content to give up the excitement of political life at this early period of his career.

Others there are who would have a claim upon the government for the seat, and could command strong political interest, and perhaps fill the office fairly and respectably; but there is no one "head and shoulders" over his fellows, that the profession can look to as a likely man. Failing then an outsider, Mr. Vice-Chancellor Spragge's name comes up again, and his appointment would create an opening for a new Vice-Chancellor which could more easily be filled; and Mr. Gwynne's name suggests itself. He has already shewn himself a capable man for the bench, so far, at least, as we may judge from experience in presiding occasionally at Nisi Prius. There are, however, others from whom a desirable selection might be made for Vice-Chancellor.

But if the Chancellor be not appointed to the Chief Justiceship, where are we to look for a Chief. The qualities necessary to fill the position with comfort to himself, pleasure to the profession, and advantage to the country, are such that it is not to be wondered at that there is so much difficulty in finding the right person for the position. Even from the physical strength and endurance required to perform the duties satisfactorily, it is difficult to obtain with the other requisites; and in speaking of this last requisite it is said that the senior judge of the Court of Queen's Bench, so thoroughly qualified for such an important position in point of learning and ability, does not possess the health or strength which has been spoken of as essential.

It is very much to be regretted that the Treasurer of the Law Society could not be induced to accept the Chief Justiceship, which it is said has been offered to him, but declined. His capabilities are so patent, and his pub-

lic services of such long standing, and his efforts on behalf of the profession so great and so well appreciated, that his appointment would be looked upon by the profession as a deserved compliment to the bar in general. We are sure that nothing but the impossibility of giving up his numerous business engagements at such short notice, would prevent him from accepting an appointment that would redound as much to the credit of the Government as it would, under other circumstances, be in accordance with his own professional aspirations.

Whatever the appointments are to be, we hope there will be no delay in making them. It does not at present seem likely that either the Attorney-General for the Dominion, or for Ontario will take advantage of the privilege possessed by one or other of them; nor is there any member of the Government that would be likely to be appointed; and if so, there need, and ought not to be much delay.

Rumours of course are numerous, and one is, that failing the appointment of the Chancellor to the Chief Justiceship, the Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas would take that position, taking with him to the Court of Queen's Bench Mr. Adam Wilson, and that Mr. Hagarty would then be appointed Chief of the Pleas, with probably Mr. Gwynne as his Junior Puisne in that Court.

We think, however, we are correct in stating, that as yet no appointments have been made.

LORD BROUGHAM.

Recent despatches from England bring us news of the death of Henry Brougham, Baron Brougham and Vaux, in his ninetieth year, at his residence near Cannes, in France.

He was born in Edinburgh, on the 19th September, 1779, and was educated at the High School and University of Edinburgh, where he was laborious and successful. He became an advocate at the Scottish bar, in 1800, and about two years afterwards commenced his connection with the *Edinburgh Review*, to which he was for several years one of the most constant and eminent contributors. In 1807, he removed to London, and the year afterwards was called to the bar at Lincoln's Inn, where his great abilities and untiring energy made his success as certain and more brilliant than it could have been in the more limited sphere north of the Tweed.