

ELECTION OF BENCHERS.

DIARY FOR MARCH.

1. Wed. *St. David.* Last day for County Clerk to transmit to Chief Superintendent audited school account.
5. SUN. *2nd Sunday in Lent.*
7. Tues. *Shrove Tuesday.* Last day for notice of Trial for County Court, York.
12. SUN. *3rd Sunday in Lent.*
14. Tues. General Sessions and County Court Sittings in York.
17. Frid. *St. Patrick's Day.*
19. SUN. *4th Sunday in Lent.*
25. Sat. *Annunciation.*
26. SUN. *5th Sunday in Lent.*
31. Frid. Last day for Local Superintendent of Common Schools to complete first half-yearly visits to schools.

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There are three prominent characteristics in mankind in the present age of the world. Firstly—Those who are so infatuated with the belief that nothing new can be and that everything old must be good, and so fearful of changes that they cannot tolerate any alteration in the present state of things. Secondly—Those who, when a change is from any reason or combination of circumstances rendered necessary or inevitable, are willing after a fair trial of the old machinery, by degrees, warily and carefully, to alter, rectify and remodel it; and lastly, those who, when there is some slight disarrangement in detail, some part inefficient or effete, with axe in hand, rush blindly at the machine, and after hewing it in pieces, endeavour out of the wreck to construct something which they imagine will be better than the old.

Of the first class there are but few, and though we may respect them for their large development of the organ of veneration, we cannot wish to see more of them than are necessary to act somewhat in the same way as fly wheel does in a steam engine.

The third class are at the other extreme, and unhappily rather numerous—of them beware, for their tendency is towards primeval chaos, disintegration and ruin.

Let not any of our readers now thoughtlessly exclaim that we are trenching on politics, of such matters we are profoundly ignorant, and though we have smelt the smell of it in

this matter it is offensive to all those who wish the profession well; and we only allude to these peculiarities of human nature in so far as they affect the individual members of our honorable profession, which as a whole is, we fondly trust, composed of the second or moderate class we have above alluded to. There may of course be a few stray ones of the destructive class, but they are too few to be worth considering.

Certain changes have been made in the mode of appointing the governing body of our Law Society. Whether these changes have been brought about by the second or third class spoken of above, or by means of influences outside the Society, or a little of all three, it is not our present purpose to enquire; the fact may be accepted without further comment, except to keep in view that we have to do with a new state of things where moderation, caution, and mutual forbearance are essential to our future well-being. In other words, it now becomes our duty so to work the new Act respecting the appointment of the governing body of the Law Society, that such Society may hereafter receive the respect and confidence it has hitherto enjoyed; and we may at the same time express a hope that whatever our difficulties may be, it may derive from the new system an increase of vigor and activity.

In making the selection of Benchers it must never be forgotten, that to that body the Bar and the public have in a great measure to look for the maintenance of a high standard of professional feeling and professional morality, both in the admission of members and in the supervision of their conduct as practitioners.

To secure this the Benchers to be selected should be those who from their attainments, integrity, and position at the Bar, will command the respect and confidence as well of their brethren as of the public at large; and though younger blood may usefully be infused, age and experience are most important elements in the formation of a good Bench; and we speak not only of the experience arising from length of years, but also that which has been gained from a practical knowledge of the working of the Society in times past.

There are, we believe, seven gentlemen who are by virtue of the Statute *ex-officio* Benchers, having held the office of Attorney or Solicitor-General, viz:—Sir John A. Macdonald,