

HONOUR TO WHOM HONOUR IS DUE—LAW SOCIETY, EASTER TERM, 1873.

say, not "as my Lord," but "as Mr. Justice so-and-so" observed; and it makes no difference that the puisne judge referred to happens to be presiding over the Court." The *Journal* goes on to observe that a presiding puisne judge has no right to be spoken of, as "my Lord," though by a comparatively recent usage he is, whether presiding or not, spoken to under that title. It was only during the last century that the judges began to be addressed as "your Lordship." In the year books their title is "Sir," and we notice that an English Vice-Chancellor is always referred to in the reports as "His Honour." Mr. Foss records the fact that the worthy Serjeant Hill persisted throughout his life in keeping to the old style, and that he was the last counsel who refused to adopt the new fashion. But Woolrych refers to another Serjeant of later date who was equally conservative. Serjeant Williams (the editor of *Saunders's Reports*) reserved the title of "my Lord" for the Chiefs only. One of the puisnes, it is said, would sometimes interrupt him in his argument. In those days it was peculiarly the Chief's prerogative to stop a counsel. But the Serjeant could not tolerate interference from any inferior quarter. "Sir!" he would say, "I will answer your observations after I have replied to my Lord." It is to be noted, however, that when judges are on circuit, they are all equally entitled to be styled "my Lord," for the reason, apparently, that then they are acting under a special Royal Commission. Dr. Johnson, in his "Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland," notes the practice, but assigns a different reason: "Lordship" he says, "was very liberally annexed by our ancestors to any station or character of dignity; they said, the Lord General, and Lord Ambassador; so we still say, my Lord, to the judge upon the circuit."

We incline to the opinion that none of

our ancestors could surpass the liberality of Canadians in conferring titles of dignity on the judges. All the judges of the Superior Courts are indiscriminately "your Lordship," and the judges of the County Courts have fairly monopolized the less dignified style of "your Honour." So far as the bar is concerned, the style of address is fixed; any change, in the way of abating the high-sounding epithets, must come by suggestion from the Bench. We do not, however, propose to suggest any change. It may perhaps be as well in these democratic days to retain any usage which can at all assist in keeping alive a spirit of respect for the representatives of law and order.

LAW SOCIETY.

EASTER TERM—36 Victoria.

The following is the *resumé* of the proceedings of the Benchers during this Term, published by authority:—

Monday, 19th May.

The several gentlemen whose names are published in the usual lists were called to the Bar, received certificates of fitness, and were admitted as Students of the Laws.

The petitions of Messrs. Biggar, Vidal, Gordon, and Colville, were allowed.

The petition of Mr. C. J. Fuller, for call to the Bar under Act of Ontario Legislature, was presented.

Ordered that Mr. Fuller do pass the usual examination before next Term, upon payment of the usual fee of \$100.

The Treasurer reported the result of the Intermediate Examinations.

Tuesday, 20th May.

The petition of Mr. W. C. Mahaffy was refused.

The abstract of balance sheet for the first quarter of 1873, was laid on the table.