

DIARY FOR FEBRUARY.

1. Wed ... Grammar School Trustees to meet.
2. Thur ... Purification of B. V. Mary.
5. SUN ... 5th Sunday after Epiphany.
6. Mon ... Hilary Term commences.
10. Frid... Paper Day, Q. B. New Trial Day, C. P.
11. Sat ... Paper Day, C. P. New Trial Day, Q. B.
12. SUN ... Septuagesima.
13. Mon ... Paper Day, Q. B. New Trial Day, C. P.
14. Tues ... Paper Day, C. P. New Trial Day, Q. B.
15. Wed ... Paper Day, Q. B. New Trial Day, C. P. Last day
16. Thur... Paper Day, C. P. [for service for Co. Ct.]
17. Frid... New Trial Day, Q. B.
18. Sat ... Hilary Term ends
19. SUN ... Sexagesima.
24. Frid... St. Matthias.
26. Sat ... Declare for County Court.
28. SUN ... Quinquagesima.
28. Tues... Shrove Tuesday.

NOTICE.

Owing to the delay that has unavoidably taken place in the issue of the January number and of this number of Law Journal and Local Courts' Gazette, the time within which payments must be made to secure the benefits of cash payments is extended to 1st April next.

Owing to the very large demand for the Law Journal and Local Courts' Gazette, subscribers not desiring to take both publications are particularly requested at once to return the back numbers of that one for which they do not wish to subscribe.

The Local Courts'

AND

MUNICIPAL GAZETTE.

FEBRUARY, 1865.

THE RECENT CHANGES.

We have most favorable accounts from all quarters of the reception of the *Law Journal* and the *Local Courts' Gazette*, and have every reason so far to be satisfied with the result of our exertions.

Some few there are amongst the magistracy and municipal bodies that seem to labour under the impression that it is quite out of the power of any mortal to add anything to their stock of knowledge, and so long as they have the "Consolidated Statutes," which they fondly imagine contain *all* the law on every subject, they think they cannot go wrong. The less such people *really* know the more they *think* they know. Fortunately the localities blessed with such luminaries are few, and there appears to be a growing desire on the part of those connected with magisterial and municipal duties to use every means of increasing their stock of information. The first judges in the land find it necessary to keep themselves well posted in the current law; and it is an

invariable fact, that those who know most are always the persons most anxious to learn more.

The Council of the County of Simcoe have taken the lead in this respect amongst the municipalities. They have with commendable enlightenment and liberality ordered several copies of both publications for the use of the County Council, and two copies of the *Local Courts' Gazette* for the use of each local municipality in the County. We venture to promise that it will not be money thrown away. Certainly not if we can help it. What will be useful for one county will be of the same advantage to another, and we hope to find this example followed by the majority of the other County councils in Upper Canada.

We have every reason to believe, and are extremely glad to be able to say so, that the changes that have been made have met with such general approbation from persons of influence and intelligence.

MAGISTRATE'S MINUTE BOOK.

Many years ago the writer heard the late Chief Justice of Upper Canada censure a magistrate for not keeping minutes of his official acts and proceedings.

The powers and duties of justices of the peace are most extensive and varied, and it is no less important for themselves than the general public, that some record should be preserved of every application to them, and of every proceeding before them. The magistrate's court should not form the only exception to the rule requiring regular entries to be made of all business coming before courts of justice. This rule is rigidly enforced in the highest as well as in the lowest court of civil judicature in the Province; and magistrates, with their large criminal jurisdiction, ought more especially to observe it. What would be thought of a business man who kept no day-book or journal—an agent who kept no diary of his doings? Why, that he must be an ignorant person, or culpably indifferent and careless. Yet we believe it to be the fact that not one magistrate out of ten keeps any minute of his official doings.

It is not by way of complaint but as a warning that we draw attention to this matter, and urge upon magistrates the necessity of attending to the duty referred to. It is not enough that they have the informations or other