

BUSINESS IN THE COURTS.

REPORT from Accountant's Office, Court, of Chancery, January, 1876.

Paid into Court in various suits and matters, from 15th Dec., 1863 to 15th Dec., 1869				\$355,920 20
do	1869	do	1870	488,075 65
do	1870	do	1871	564,513 12
do	1871	do	1872	683,479 64
do	1872	do	1873	644,645 02
do	1873	do	1874	569,239 26
do	1874	do	1875	710,369 34
				<u>\$4,218,615 74</u>

Paid out of Court in various suits and matters, from 15th Dec., 1863 to 15th Dec., 1869				\$325,848 97
do	1869	do	1870	472,110 32
do	1870	do	1871	546,271 06
do	1871	do	1872	677,742 17
do	1872	do	1873	652,398 10
do	1873	do	1874	623,034 86
do	1874	do	1875	678,942 81
				<u>\$4,078,721 80</u>

It will thus be seen that there were 424 more bills filed in 1875 than in 1874, and 736 more than in 1869, six years ago. This only shows inferentially an increase of contested cases, the returns being incomplete from the outer offices as to causes set down for examination and hearing; but the increase of contested cases may be taken for granted from the greater number of bills filed. A close investigation shows that although there are not nearly as many motions for injunctions to stay actions at law as formerly, yet many of the cases which arose out of that jurisdiction of the Court, are now taken to Chancery in the first instance. It must also be borne in mind, that the Act for quieting titles, and the law relating to mechanics' liens, have largely increased the work of the court.

It is difficult to obtain anything like complete or satisfactory statistics of the business done at common law, as much would have to be gathered from the Deputy Clerks of the Crown in the different counties, and much work is done at Osgoode Hall which is not embodied in the returns which have been made. But it is evident, from the following statement of business in the County of York (we have been unable to get returns from the outer Counties), that there has been even a greater increase in the Courts of Queen's Bench and Common Pleas than there has been in Chancery:—

Year.	No. of Writs.	Appearances.
1870	734	400
1871	812	458
1872	891	469
1873	1040	625
1874	1049	566
1875	1427	790

The state of the contested business at Common Law is fairly shown in the following return as to Term work, from 1872 inclusive, though it does not by any means represent the actual work of the Courts; as only arguments strictly so called, and not a multitude of ordinary motions, are included in these figures:—

Year.	Term.	New Trial Arguments.		Other Arguments.	
		Q. B.	C. P.	Q. B.	C. P.
1872.	Hilary	25	20	15	10
	Easter	37	30	26	18
	Michaelmas	28	28	21	17
1873.	Hilary	19	21	17	11
	Easter	25	32	28	16
	Michaelmas	24	27	37	21
1874.	Hilary	18	20	21	11
	Easter	28	28	24	15
	Trinity	21	16	16	4
	Michaelmas	19	22	18	13
1875.	Hilary	20	23	18	11
	Easter	23	17	12	7
	Trinity	3	2	14	6
	Michaelmas	41	52	12	14

In addition to the above there were arguments before single judges in vacation to 31st December, 1875—in the Queen's Bench 107, and in the Common Pleas 47.

The above statement may be summarized, including arguments before a single judge, thus:—

New Trials & Arguments	1872	1873	1874	1875
Queen's Bench	152	150	195	220
Common Pleas	121	128	134	164
Totals	273	278	329	384

As to the relative increase of business between the Common Law Courts and the Court of Chancery, it is difficult to form any estimate which is not to a great extent imaginary; and it is almost impossible as yet to say, with any degree of certainty, what the effect of the Administration of