

LORD ST. LEONARDS.

‘nothing herein contained shall be construed to detach from the County of Simcoe any of the townships hereinbefore mentioned, now united thereto for municipal purposes.’

It would therefore appear clear to the attentive reader of the Statutes that the Reeve of the Township of Monck sits in the councils both of Simcoe and the District of Muskoka, while the united townships of Watt, Cardwell, Humphrey, Christie, Medora and Wood send a representative to the Council of Simcoe, and are all (except Christie) again represented in the Council of the District of Muskoka.

Finally, it seems that the perplexity occasioned by this mode of procedure has proved too much even for our legislators themselves, for after incorporating by Act of Parliament several towns and villages, which for all that appears, might have been content to “enter in by the door” of by-laws under sec. 8, or proclamations under sec. 10 of the Municipal Act, we find that the same House which in March, 1873, put an end to the village of Ashburnham, by merging it in the town of Peterborough as one of its wards, has inadvertently treated it as still a distinct municipality, and placed it for representation purposes in a different constituency from Peterborough by the Act 38 Vict., c. 2, s. 14 (O) assented to on the 20th December, 1874.

Surely such a state of things should not be allowed to continue. If the duties of the Law Clerk are too onerous (and the profession well know he is neither indolent nor incompetent) to allow of a careful examination of all the Private Bills which pass through his hands in the course of a Session, the Province can well afford an addition to the staff of the House, in order to protect the public from the evils which must inevitably result from such hasty legislation. If, among the thirty or thirty-five members

who form the Committee on Private Bills, but four or five will ordinarily attend, would it not be better to introduce the English system of referring each act to a committee of three, sworn to examine fully into all the facts and report the result to the House?

It is easier perhaps, to point out the evil than to devise the remedy; but we trust that the Honorable the Attorney General, whose long judicial experience enables him to judge of the importance of the matter, will ere long give it his attention, and bring to bear upon it that practical good sense and judgment which he has in many other instances exhibited.

LORD ST. LEONARDS.

On the 29th January last died Edward Sugden, Lord St. Leonards, a name which ranks with Coke and Blackstone as that of a writer upon the laws of England of no ephemeral fame. He had reached the great age of 94 years, and it has been said of him, what can be said of no other lawyer living or dead, that he has been appealed to as a living oracle of the law for 70 years. In the roll of the Chief Justices and Chancellors of England will be found in about equal numbers, men of the highest and lowliest birth. Lord St. Leonards belonged to the latter class, and like Abbott, Lord Tenterden, was the son of a barber. He is said to have been born in his father's shop in London, on the 12th February, 1781. It is related of Lord Chief Justice Tenterden, that on his last visit to Canterbury, his native place, he pointed out to his son a little booth or stall opposite the western front of the Cathedral, saying “Charles, you see this little shop! I have brought you here on purpose to show it you. In that shop your grandfather used to shave for a penny. That is the proudest reflection of my life! While you live never forget that, my dear Charles.” A story is told of Lord