

DIARY FOR JANUARY.

1. Tues... *Circumcision*. Taxes to be comp. from this day.
5. Satur. Last day for Tp. VIII. and Town Clerk to make
6. SUN... *Epiphany*. [returns to Co. Clerk.
7. Mon... Co. Ct. and Surrog. Ct. Term ends. Mun. Elec.
8. Tues... Elec. School Trustees. Helr and Dev. sitt. com.
9. Wed... Assizes County York.
12. Satur. County Ct. and Surrogate Ct. Term ends.
13. SUN... 1st Sunday after Epiphany
14. Mon... Election of Police Trustees in Police Villages.
15. Tues... Treas. & Cham. of Mun. to make return to Board of Audit. School reports to be made.
19. Satur. Articles, &c., to be left with Sec. of Law Society.
20. SUN... 2nd Sunday after Epiphany.
21. Mon... Members of Municipal Councils (except Co.'s) and Trust of Police VII. to hold 1st meeting.
22. Tues... Helr and Devises sitt. ends. Mem. Co Council
23. Wed... Dec. of office by Sch. Tr. [to hold 1st meeting.
26. Friday *Conversion of St. Paul.*
27. SUN... 3rd Sunday after Epiphany.
30. Wed... Appeal from Chancery Cham. School Financial Report to Board of Audit.
31. Thur... Last day for Counties and Cities to make return to Provincial Secretary.

NOTICE.

Subscribers in arrears are requested to make immediate payment of the sums due by them. All payments for the current year made before the 1st March next will be received as cash payments, and will secure the advantages of the lower rates.

The Local Courts'

AND

MUNICIPAL GAZETTE.

JANUARY, 1867.

COUNTY JUDGES.

One of the most important requirements in the orderly government of a country is upright and efficient judges—men who will administer the law without fear, favour or affection: with painstaking industry and the severity of logical analysis: having a thorough grounding in the fundamental principles of the common law and of equity jurisprudence, combined with a thorough and practical knowledge of the legislative changes that are being daily made both in the common and statute law. To this must be added, what are perhaps rarer qualities, an intuitive insight into character and the workings of human nature, and a keen observance and appreciation of the customs, wants and necessities of the people with whom they are either mediately or immediately brought in contact.

This last requisite applies with peculiar force to County judges in this country. Often obliged to decide upon the spur of the moment, with no assistance from books, or from

the arguments of experienced counsel—with a mass of evidence, perhaps “pitchforked” into court without order, rhyme or reason—in a crowded court room, with but comparatively little time to devote to each case, it is little to be wondered at, if judges sometimes give decisions which are not all that could be desired. The greater care should therefore be exercised in the selection of men to fill these offices,—men who are not only sound lawyers: but also who can quickly and correctly discover the point at issue, analyse and apply the evidence, scrutinise motives, and attach to the evidence of each witness the credibility or importance which it deserves.

The following remarks, taken from a leading legal publication in England, with reference to the appointment and position of the county judges there, are so much to the purpose that we copy them:

“There is no subject at present more deserving of the attention of the legislature and of the bar than the administration of law in the county courts. In the great majority of cases over which the jurisdiction of these courts extends, there is no appeal from the decision of the judge who decides upon them in the first instance. It may be true that they are occasionally of trifling importance to the parties concerned. On the other hand, to the majority of the suitors, who are of the poorer class, they are of great moment, and the decisions thus pronounced affect the existence of homes and the future of many lives. But the administration of law has a wider bearing than that which concerns the interest of the litigants in any particular case. It is necessary for the promotion of good citizenship and loyalty to the Crown and the institutions of the country that the law of the land should be fairly administered by every authorised tribunal. In many cases the vagaries of our county court judges are not a credit to the profession or the government. Some of these gentlemen carry out a law and practice of their own, decide upon principles of absolute morality, and not in accordance with legal authority, and hold courts which are only distinguished for loud talk between the litigants and the judge, and other great irregularities. * * * * Above all, care should be taken that good men should be appointed to the important position of a county court judge.”

There is good and bad of every thing in this world; and though we are not now complaining of the appointments that have been hitherto made in this country, or say that persons appointed to offices of high public trust for political reasons are unfitted, *ipso*