

DIARY FOR JUNE.

1. Sat... Open Day.
2. SUN.. 1st Sunday after Trinity.
3. Mon.. Paper Day, Q. B. New Trial Day, C. P.
4. Tues.. Paper Day, C. P. New Trial Day, Q. B.
5. Wed.. Open Day, Q. B. New Trial Day, C. P.
6. Tues.. Open Day.
7. Fri... New Trial Day, Q. B. Open Day, C. P.
8. Sat... Easter Term ends.
9. SUN.. 2nd Sunday after Trinity.
11. Tues.. General Sessions and County Court Sittings in each county.
14. Fri... Last day for Courts of Revision finally to revise assessment roll.
16. SUN.. 3rd Sunday after Trinity.
20. Thur. Accession of Queen Victoria; 36th year of her reign commenced.
21. Fri.. Longest Day.
23. SUN.. 4th Sunday after Trinity.
29. Sat... St. Peter.
30. SUN.. 5th Sunday after Trinity.

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An Act has been passed by the Pennsylvania Legislature, extending the competency of persons to be witnesses in criminal cases. It provides that in proceedings where the crime is not above the grade of misdemeanor, the person charged shall, at his own request, but not otherwise, be deemed a competent witness; but his neglect or refusal to testify shall not create any presumption against him, nor shall any reference be made to, or comment made upon, such neglect or refusal, by the counsel in the case, during the trial. Proceedings in forgery and perjury are excepted from the operation of the Act.

Statutes similar to this are already in force in some of the other States; for example, New York and Maine. Attempts have been made, chiefly by Lord Brougham, to introduce such a law into the English system, but hitherto in vain. We should like to know how the clause which lays it down that "no presumption shall be created against any person withholding his testimony," is to be carried out practically. It would puzzle even the traditional "Philadelphia lawyer" to prevent such a course of conduct from raising a prejudice in the mind of the jury against the person incriminated. We apprehend, however, that no serious injury will result in such a case, as almost every innocent person will seize the opportunity of clearing himself upon oath. Much might be said both for and against this enlargement of the law of evidence, but it is not necessary now to dwell upon the subject.

Lawyers are often blamed by their clients for giving wrong opinions on points of law, or rather for expressing views which are not sustained when the cases come before the courts, and this, in the minds of the suitor, means the same thing. We should recommend complaining litigants to read the judgment of the Court of Appeal in *Forsyth v. Galt et al.*, where a question arose on the construction of a will as to the estate taken under it by a devisee, one C.