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## DIARY FOR FEBRUARY.

1. Thu... Examination for Call and Second Intermediate.
2. Fri... Examination continued.
4. Sun... *Quinquagesima Sunday*.
5. Mon... Hilary Sittings begin.
6. Tue... Hagarty, C.J., C.P., sworn in, 1856.
7. Wed... Ash Wednesday.
9. Fri... Queen Victoria married, 1840.
10. Sat... Lord Sydenham Gov.-General of Canada, 1840. R.  
E. Caron Lieut.-Gov. Quebec.
11. Sun... *Quadragesima Sunday*.
12. Mon... Last day to move against Municipal Elections.

TORONTO, FEB. 1, 1883.

THE large increase of business in the Court of Chancery is partly shown by the fact, as stated by Mr. Justice Taylor on the occasion hereafter referred to, that in the first twenty years of the existence of the Court of Chancery there were ten volumes of decrees and orders, whilst in the next twenty years there were fifty volumes, many times larger in size, used for similar purposes; and that as to the amount of money in Court, there was an increase from about \$150,000 to \$3,000,000 in the space of sixteen years.

MR. JUSTICE TAYLOR now makes the third occupant of the Bench who had previously filled the office of Master in Chancery, the other two being the present Chief Justice of Ontario, who held the office from 1837 to 1850, and the present Chancellor of Ontario, who held the office from 1870 to 1873. Both the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Taylor were promoted directly from the Master's office to the Bench, but the Chancellor had resumed practice at the Bar prior to his elevation.

Considering that there have been but four Masters in Chancery since the office was established, and three of them are now occupants of the Bench, the office of Master of

the Supreme Court into which it has been merged, may, perhaps, not unreasonably, be looked upon as a stepping stone to the Bench.

WHERE the judiciary is elective and a man is one day a judge and the next an advocate, it is necessary, we presume, that the temporary occupant of the judicial chair should, so to speak, "keep his hand in" by an occasional rhetorical flight such as is known to be dear to the average American citizen. It is also a comfort to a precedent abiding profession to know that though they may throw themselves away by going on the Bench, they have still "authority" for such bursts of eloquence as that of Speer, J., of the Supreme Court of Georgia, in a case which we find reported in a recent number of the *Central Law Journal*. The question was as to compensation to an owner of land by a railway company precedent to occupancy by them for railway purposes. The learned judge thus concludes his judgment:—

"Here is the home of a man venerable in age, in which he has resided with his family for thirty-eight years, planted by the side of the limpid stream, whose waters he utilizes as they flow. He has gathered around him by industry and toil the fruits and flowers of the season, the comforts and conveniences of a well-arranged and much-loved homestead. Around it cluster the memories of a lifetime, treasured in common with those who have grown under his care from infancy to manhood and womanhood under its broad and protecting shadows. In it he was gently descending to old age, loving that quiet and seclusion to which the heart of the old so strongly cling. But the spirit of the age demands this homestead for its iron track upon which its iron steeds may travel to meet the alleged necessities of trade and travel, or to extend their corporate power and dominion. If the beauty