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DIARY FOR MARCH.

17. Wed...St. Patrick's Day.
18. Thu...Arch. McLean, 8th C. J. of Q. B., 1862.
19. Fr...P. M. Vankoughnet, 2nd Chancellor, 1862.
20. Sat...Lord Mansfield died 1773, *et. 89.*
21. Sun...*2nd Sunday in Lent.*
22. Thur...Lady Day, or Annunciation of B. V. Mary.
23. Fri...*3rd Sunday in Lent.* Lord Romilly app. M.R.,
1851.
30. Tues...B. N. A. Act assented to, 1867. Reformation in
England began 1534.

TORONTO, MARCH 15, 1886.

AN old and valued correspondent, one of the best of our County Court judges, sends us the correspondence which took place between him and a person who desired to be appointed a commissioner for taking affidavits in his county. We publish the letters in another place. The correspondence contains food for thought for some other county judges, as well as for the justices of the High Court, on the subject therein referred to. If commissions were only granted to professional men (except under very peculiar circumstances) much injustice would be prevented.

It seems very strange that those who are specially appointed to protect the interests of their brethren are either too regardless of their duties in this respect, or are otherwise unable to suggest anything to protect the fee-paying lawyer from the depredations of the ignorant, unlicensed harpies who are taking the bread out of the mouths of those who have a clear right to be protected. Perhaps if we had a few more men as benchers from the ranks of the solicitors and a few less leading counsel it might

be an advantage. The latter, so long as their fees are paid by the solicitors who employ them, do not feel the shoe pinch, and are either forgetful or careless (perhaps both) of the struggles of country practitioners and the injustice to which they are subjected.

It is a constant and recurring source of astonishment that the Attorney-General on the one hand (whose duty it ought to be), and the leader of the opposition on the other (who ought to call him to account), take no action in this matter. We presume they would lose some votes if they did the honest thing in the premises; and thus the rights of the profession are sacrificed on the party altar. We are constantly receiving letters on this subject, and publish some of them in this issue. We, at least, have not ceased to call attention to the wrong done. Numerous suggestions have been made, some of which are surely feasible. We add another, extracted from a letter now before us: Let the Legislature establish a tariff of fees which would satisfy the public, and make all persons who do conveyancing obtain certificates of qualification from the Law Society. We do not say this is the best suggestion; we only plead with those in authority to do *something*. There is a story of two shipwrecked sailors which is somewhat in point, though we doubt its authenticity. Death was imminent. Human aid seemed impossible. An appeal for Divine assistance by prayer or hymn came not to their uncircumcised lips; but something had to be done, and so they took comfort in the suggestion of "taking up a col-