

not be issued against him for contempt that the petitioner appeared before Chief Justice Beaumont and Mr. Justice Beete, who, without hearing certain objections, adjourned the matter to the 6th of the same month. He again appeared before the Court as directed, and the Attorney-General and Mr. Gilbert were his counsel; and after hearing them he was ordered again to appear on the 10th of the same month, when it was objected that the order made in the matter was irregular. The Court overruled the objection, and offered to allow further time, but his counsel declined to show cause under the order made. Mr. E. C. Ross, the informant, was heard; and the decision was deferred till the 13th of April, on which day the Court, consisting of the Chief Justice Beaumont and Mr. Justice Beete, gave judgment that the petitioner had been guilty of a contempt by publishing matter in the *Colonist* scandalously reflecting on the Court and the administration of justice, and for such contempt he was ordered to be imprisoned in Her Majesty's gaol of George-town for the term of six calendar months. The petitioner further alleged that he was delivered into custody, and applied for leave to appeal to the Queen in Council, and had been refused on the ground that it was not an appealable case. That he had been advised that his only remedy was to appeal to the Privy Council for liberty to appeal, and in his petition he complained of the proceedings as illegal, and prayed an inquiry into the matter as well for the sake of his own character and reputation as for the right and due administration of justice. Mr. Coleridge asked their Lordships to grant permission to the petitioner to appeal, and then the matter could be inquired into.

Lord WESTBURY consulted the other members of the Committee, and said their Lordships would give leave to the petitioner to appeal, but would reserve to themselves the right to consider whether it was allowable.

An order was made to appeal without prejudice to the competency of the appeal. W.

Sir William Bovill, the Solicitor General, has succeeded to the Chief Justiceship of the Common Pleas, in the place of Sir William Erle retired.

CHIEF JUSTICE ERLE.

On the 26th of November last, the Lord Chief Justice presided for the last time in the Court of Common Pleas. At the rising of the Court, the Attorney-General, Sir John Rolt, in the presence of the whole Court and a crowded Bar, addressed the retiring judge on behalf of the Bar. The Attorney-General remarked in the course of his address:

"My Lord, we all feel and desire to acknowledge that, under your presidency in this Court, the great judicial duty of reconciling, as far as may be, positive law with moral justice has been satisfied. The letter of the law that kills, and the mere discretion of the judge, which has been well said to be the law of tyrants, have been alike kept in due subjection. Learning, experience in affairs, wise administration have been so combined that, with the assistance of the eminent judges associated with you on that Bench, the laws of England have been exhibited in their true aspect as the exponent of the rights and duties of her citizens, and the guardian of their liberties. The Court of Common Pleas, under your presidency, my Lord, has attained the just confidence of the suitor, the public, and the profession. But, my Lord, I shall not be forgiven by my colleagues if I stop here. I shall not be forgiven if I fail to express our admiration for the simplicity and elevation of character that have adorned that administration, and our affectionate regard for the private and social qualities, the kindness and the courtesy that have been displayed on the Bench, and in the intercourse of private life. Our homage is due and is paid alike to the worth of the man and the dignity of the judge.

"My Lord, it is no idle ceremony that induces us thus to intrude upon you. We know that your Lordship would, had it been possible, have retired from the Bench to-day without public observation. But it was not possible. There are occasions on which the impulses of the heart must be obeyed; and this was one. The universal feeling insisted on public expression.

"My Lord, it may be right, and since it is your will we endeavour to think it is so, that in the full possession of the greatest judicial