

residence after he became judge, for the purpose of concealing his neglect and mismanagement when prothonotary, and was so made false and incorrect, in order the better to attain that object, and to avoid the legal responsibility attaching to him in favor of parties aggrieved by his neglect of duty as prothonotary.

"As Clerk of the Circuit Court, the said hon. Aimé Lafontaine so neglected his duties that, up to this day, of several hundred judgments rendered therein during the time he was Clerk thereof, there is not and there never has been any register whatever in the hands of his successor. Whether or not the said Aimé Lafontaine has any such registers, your petitioners cannot affirm. If he has them he is guilty of a criminal and illegal act in keeping them. If he has them not, then he never kept any, and, as a consequence, the interest of parties to the judgments of the said court has been most culpably sacrificed by his neglect. But if he keeps them at his domicile for the purpose of making entries in them without the knowledge or consent of their legal custodian, to conceal his neglect and misconduct and thereby to escape legal responsibility towards those who are interested in the said judgments, then is he guilty of a crime of the highest nature. In any case, parties, who years ago were suitors and obtained judgments in that court, cannot execute them for the reason that executions might be, as they have already been, opposed upon the ground that there are no judgments in the court against them upon which executions could legally issue.

"There are no registers whatever in the office of the present Clerk of the Crown of the judgments, orders, or proceedings of the Court of Queen's Bench for the time the said Hon. A. Lafontaine was Clerk thereof.

"No register whatever exists of the orders, judgments and proceedings of the late Court of General Sessions of the Peace, in the District of Ottawa, for the time the said Hon. A. Lafontaine was Clerk of the Peace. And it is impossible, up to this day, to obtain from the proper officer a copy or certificate of any proceeding of a Criminal Court in the District of Ottawa during the time the said Aimé Lafon-

taine was Clerk of the Crown and Clerk of the Peace,—and this solely through the neglect of the said Aimé Lafontaine to keep registers of the proceedings thereof.

"Your petitioners beg further to represent that the said Aimé Lafontaine has made use of his judicial position in the District of Ottawa to conceal his neglect as Prothonotary, and thereby avoid legal responsibility to those by whom injury has been sustained through his misconduct. As Judge he has no right to hold possession of the registers of the Superior Court, which should be in the possession of their legal custodian, much less has he a right to make entries therein. To do so, for the purpose of escaping responsibility, or to conceal his own neglect, would no doubt be a forgery of the very gravest character. However, your petitioners aver that up to the 18th of November, 1863, the said Aimé Lafontaine kept and retained at his private house the registers of that Court for the time he was Prothonotary; and neither the Prothonotary nor any one interested could have access to them. At last, parties thinking there were no judgments against them, as there were none recorded in Court, began to oppose executions by oppositions, setting forth the fact. Thereupon the said Aimé Lafontaine, as Judge, took from the Prothonotary's Office nearly all the records of the Superior Court, and afterwards as your petitioners have reason to believe, recorded in the register judgments which had no existence there when the executions were taken out, to the prejudice of the said opposants."

The petition proceeds to detail various instances, in which the want of a register gave rise to oppositions, when parties holding judgments attempted to execute them. Here, however, the judge would appear to have acted honestly, for it is stated that he kept these cases *en délibéré* till he had completed the register, and then dismissed the oppositions, and very properly too, for it would seem that they had been filed in the hope that the register of judgments could not be produced—a proceeding very much like that of a tradesman who sues a person for a debt that has been paid, relying on the knowledge that his receipts have been destroyed. In November,