

## EDITORIAL NOTES—LEAP YEAR.

that *individually* they would not countenance conduct which would seem to come within the ruling of Chief Justice Draper as “unprofessional and illegal.”

We recently stated that Mr. Barron was about to publish a book on the law of Bills of Sale and Chattel Mortgages. Two other law books are also announced by Carswell & Co.:—The Surrogate Courts Act, with the Rules and Forms, together, with notes by Mr. Howell—and an annotated edition of the Registry Act, by Mr. E. H. Tiffany. The subjects which are to be discussed by these gentlemen are of a very practical nature; the result will, we hope, prove valuable additions to the increasing list of Canadian law books.

Mr. O'Sullivan has issued a Manual of Government in Canada, which we shall notice hereafter.

Apropos of the recent contempt of Court case in which Mr. A. and Mr. B. figured, and considering the dignified and well-timed rebuke which the Chancellor administered, it is somewhat ludicrous to contrast the manner of converse which obtained among great and good men not long ago. We quote from Leslie Stephen's life of Dr. Johnson (a book by the way which every one should read). Adam Smith met Johnson at Glasgow, and had an altercation with him about Hume's death. The dispute ended by Johnson saying to Smith, “*You lie.*” “And what did you reply?” was asked of Smith. “I said, ‘you are a son of a —.’” On such terms, says Scott, “did these two great moralists meet and part, and such was the classical dialogue between these two great teachers of morality. We trust, however, that the aggressor in the Osgoode Hall will not look upon this as condoning his offence.

As we go to press we receive a copy of a draft Bill prepared by Attorney General Mowat, as the proposed foundation of “an Act for Consolidating the Superior Courts of Law and Equity; establishing a uniform system of pleading and practice therein; and making further provision for the due administration of Justice.” It is stated to be printed for consideration only. A hurried glance would seem to show that it is based on the English Judicature Act, adapted to the peculiarities of our Courts; and besides various new provisions, weaves into the altered practice, such portions of our present practice as would seem applicable. As rumours of some such measure have been rife for some time, we may assume that much thought has been given to it by the Attorney General. At the same time, if it is intended to pass the Act this Session, we should regret that more time has not been given to the profession for the consideration of so sweeping a change. It would be much better to receive suggestions before the passing the Act than to make changes afterwards. In short, it is more desirable to “tinker” at a Bill than an Act.

## LEAP YEAR.

One of the peculiarities in the law relating to Leap Year is, that though it contains 366 days, it is no longer than if it contained the usual number. In other words, the last two days of February are by force of an old statute rolled into one. The statute in question is 21 Hen. III, according to the old copies of the law, but is more correctly given in the English Revised Statutes as 40 Hen. III. (A.D. 1256). It is there enacted that the day increasing in the Leap-Year shall be taken and reckoned of the same month wherein it groweth, and that that day