

## HOW TO BECOME A LAWYER IN ONTARIO.

## DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER.

1. Fri. *St. John's*
2. Sat. County Court Term (York) ends.
6. SUN. *13th Sunday after Trinity.*
8. Fri. *Nativity of the Blessed Virgin.*
10. SUN. *14th Sunday after Trinity.*
21. Tues. *St. Matthew.*
17. SUN. *15th Sunday after Trinity.*
27. SUN. *16th Sunday after Trinity.*
29. Fri. *St. Michael.*

THE

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IN ONTARIO.

## FIRST PAPER.

Scarcely any other portion of the statute law appears to be so rarely read and so little understood as the Acts which directly affect the profession itself. We very much doubt whether one in every five among the readers of this article can tell when and by what statute the necessity for "keeping term" was obviated, and probably a still fewer number can refer to the enactment which provides that volunteer service may be reckoned as part of the time of an articulated clerk.

And this neglect of the golden maxim, "Read and you will know," seems especially to characterize those members of the profession who sign themselves *students* at law, but who appear to forget that he who aims at becoming a successful lawyer must take nothing for granted, must depend for his information not upon the officials of the Law Society or the conductors of legal and other journals, but must *for himself* "read, mark, learn and inwardly digest" the statutes which are open to him as well as to the most learned counsel in the land.

We are constantly in receipt of letters from young men of inquiring minds, but not so certainly of studious habits, each of whom seems to regard his case as peculiar and exceptional, and to be blissfully ignorant of the fact that every step in his legal career from its inception to its consummation, has long since received the attentive consideration of the Legislature and the Benchers; and we understand that some "that are in authority over us" in the Law Society, have even more reason than ourselves to complain of this

want of independent research among those who are just entering the profession.

We make these remarks in no censorious spirit. Nothing can possibly give us greater pleasure than to afford every assistance in our power to those, who after making use of all the means at their command, are still unable to decide the questions which will arise upon the construction of these statutes and regulations. What we protest against is not the *use* but the *abuse* of "the right to inquire," and the practice of rushing at once into print for a solution of difficulties which the most cursory reading of the statutes would often set at rest.

The law relative to the admission and conduct of barristers and attorneys is contained in chaps. 34 and 35 of the C. S. U. C., and in the following amending statutes:—23 Vic. chaps. 47 & 48; 28 Vic. c. 21; 29 Vic. c. 29; 29-30 Vic. c. 49; 31 Vic. c. 23 (Ont.), and 32 Vic. c. 19 (Ont.). Only three of these are of any length, each of the remaining ones consisting of a single sentence only.

The 23rd Vic. chaps. 47 and 48, amends the Consolidated Act by providing that a University degree, in order to entitle its possessor to admission or call in three (instead of five) years, must have been taken before the commencement of, and not during, his legal career. This statute (chap. 47) with the Act which it amends, are the only enactments of the Legislature affecting barristers *as such*, that branch of the profession having been considered competent to govern itself.

The statutes remaining to be considered apply only to attorneys, who are, to a much greater extent than members of the bar, under the control of the Legislature.

Of these, the 28 Vic. c. 21, extended the time of service necessary to entitle a Canadian or English barrister to be admitted as an attorney, from one year to three years; made certain verbal amendments in the two first sub-sections of the C. S. U. C. c. 48 s. 3; and required that an articulated clerk on applying for admission, should, together with his own affidavit, file a certificate from his principal of due service under his articles.

29 Vic. c. 29 simply repealed the fifth sub-section of sec. 3 of the Consolidated Act.

29-30 Vic. c. 49 (Hon. J. H. Cameron's Act), made new provisions respecting attorneys' annual certificates, and in the concluding sec-