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## DIARY FOR JULY.

1. Tues...Dominion Day: 1867. Long Vacation, H. C. J., commences.
6. Sun...4th Sunday after Trinity.
7. Mon...Col. Simcoe, 1st Lieut.-Gov. U. C., 1792 County Court and Surrogate Terms (ex York).
8. Tues...Cyprus ceded to England, 1878.
11. Fri...Canada invaded by U. S., 1813.
12. Sat...County Court and Surrogate Term (except York) end.
13. Sun...5th Sunday after Trinity.
14. Mon...W. P. Howland, 1st Lieut.-Gov. of Ontario, 1868.

TORONTO, JULY 1, 1884.

WE learn from the *Law Times* that a brilliant assemblage dined at the Mansion House in London last month, as guests of the Lord Mayor to meet the judges. The Master of the Rolls, we are told, said some things worthy of meditation. One was that he was opposed to decentralization of the Courts of law. He would keep the judges in the Metropolis. He is undoubtedly right, and we are glad to see he takes this ground. Decentralization tends to the ruin of both Bench and Bar. He also warned people against a too ready surrender of trial by jury, and discouraged the craze for cheap law brought to any man's door.

THE decision of the English Queen's Bench Division in *London Scottish Permanent Benefit Society v. Chorby*, to which we referred in our last issue, has, we see by a late number of the *Law Times*, been affirmed by the Court of Appeal. The Master of the Rolls laying down the rule that in such cases costs are not to be taxed which the union of the two characters of party and solicitor renders impossible, e.g., instructing, attending, or advising himself. The *Times* observes:—

"It would be an interesting question whether this rule would be held applicable to members of the other branch of the profession litigating in person."

As we desire to be perfectly fair and accurate in any statement we make, especially when the conduct of a professional man is concerned, we would refer again to the charges made by Mr. Macdonell which were recently the subject of discussion in Parliament. In our remarks on the subject it was suggested that he should have the bills "taxed by the proper officer." We do not wish it to be understood that the bills were not taxed at all. It was stated during the discussion in Parliament (see *Hansard*, 1416,) that the bills were taxed by Mr. Small, then an officer of the Queen's Bench, but it also appeared that they were not taxed by Mr. Thom, who was the person especially named for that purpose by the Department, and very properly so, as he is peculiarly conversant with such matters. Upon further enquiries, however, we find that Mr. Thom declined to tax the bills, which fact the gentleman who was instructed by the Government to have the bills taxed reported to the Department at Ottawa. He was thereupon instructed to obtain the taxation of one of the other taxing officers in Toronto. This correspondence was not produced when the matter came up for discussion in the House, and the public therefore was not at that time in possession of all the facts as we now understand them. The bills were subsequently taxed by Mr. J. B. Read, solicitor for the Law Society, under the supervision of the then taxing officer of the Queen's Bench.