

THE BENCHERS OF THE LAW SOCIETY—ELECTION PETITIONS.

MILES O'REILLY, Q.C.	Hamilton.
GEORGE PALMER.....	Guelph.
T. B. PARDEE.....	Sarnia.
C. S. PATTERSON.....	Toronto.
ALBERT PRINCE, Q.C.....	Windsor.
D. B. READ, Q.C.....	Toronto.
S. RICHARDS, Q.C.....	Toronto.
J. S. SINCLAIR.....	Goderich.

On analysing this list, so far as locality is concerned, we find that twelve of the thirty reside at Toronto, twelve west of Toronto (including Barrie and St. Catharines), and six to the east. This division is curiously equal, when we remember that six out of seven of the *ex officio* Benchers also come from the east. Twenty of the new Benchers are Queen's Counsel, and nineteen were Benchers under the old *regime*, though two of these declined the nomination, and one had resigned his seat.

The highest name on the list was that of Mr. Becher, of London, a compliment from the profession at large, which cannot but be gratifying to him. The first ten names were, we understand, somewhat in the following order: Messrs. Becher, Patterson, Moss, Read, Harrison, Armour, Crooks, Beli, Richards and Pardee. There were over one hundred and fifty Barristers, who received votes in numbers graduating from nearly four hundred down to one.

Of those who were not elected, but who appeared prominently on the lists circulated before the election, we may mention that, owing to some informality, the names of Mr. Henderson of Kingston, and Mr. Wood of Brantford, were not on the list, and were declared ineligible. We have already stated that the County Judges, and several of the officers of the Courts who do not pay bar fees, were also held ineligible. Others, such as Mr. Robinson, Mr. Leith, &c., being in receipt of salaries from the Society, were not considered and did not look upon themselves as in a position to receive a nomination for the Bench. Mr. Moss, however, had, we understand, signified his intention of giving up his position as Examiner, his time being so occupied with other professional duties.

It will be observed that a fair share of young blood has been infused; but though there have been many changes in the *personnel* of the Bench, many of the most prominent Benchers under the old law will again sit in

convocation; and the fact that there is such a large proportion of silk gowns—exactly two-thirds of the whole—speaks well for the desire on the part of the profession to confide their interests to the seniors, and those whom a responsible government has thought most deserving of eminence.

Upon the whole, without, of course, having as yet had time to test the working of the new Act—for it is not the first, nor perhaps even the second election that may show any defects in the system—we may say, at least, that the first election under it has returned a very satisfactory Bench. With confidence, then, in those who have now been appointed by their fellows, let us hope the best for the future.

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The judges will soon be engaged in duties entirely new to them—taking evidence under the recent Acts respecting controverted elections, and reporting the result of their labours to the House of Assembly.

The law though new here is not so in England, as any reader of the English Reports will know. But there are some differences in the Statutes of the two countries which we may have occasion hereafter to refer to in connection with other matters of interest on the subject of these trials. At present, however, we must content ourselves with alluding to a prevalent rumour as to the time when these trials are likely to take place.

It is said that the trials will take place during the coming Term, the two Chief Justices and the Chancellor, if he should be here at the time, or, in case of his absence, one of the Vice-Chancellors, dividing the contested election cases between them.

Than the chiefs of the three courts no more fitting Judges could be chosen to inaugurate the new system, and that they will do their duty without fear, favor or affection, there will be none to doubt. But it has been suggested that it will be undesirable that the two Common Law Courts should be deprived of their heads during what is generally the heaviest Term of the year, and there is certainly a feeling against such an arrangement in the minds of the profession. It is easy to see that the public business would suffer by any diminution in the number of Judges,