

## The Legal News.

VOL. IV. JANUARY 1, 1881. No. 1.

### A YEAR'S WORK.

In connection with the pressure upon our Quebec Court of Appeal, the following, from the *Alb. Law Journal*, about the New York Court of Appeals, will be read with interest:—

"Our Court of Appeals, after a heroic struggle, have substantially cleared their year's calendar at the end of the year—a feat never before accomplished by this Court. They have heard every cause ready for argument, and have decided 583 of the 608 causes on the calendar. They have handed down 560 decisions during the year. This is a great work, and this statement does not include the myriad motions heard and decided. The Court sit, in hearing and consultations, seven hours a day, five days in the week, and write their opinions in the evenings, on Saturdays, and in vacation. It is difficult to see where they get any time for reflection. The new calendar will number over 400 with an unusually large proportion of preferred causes. It is a serious question how long men can live under such a burden as the present, not to say how long, with the constantly increasing business, their decisions can continue to deserve the general approbation which they now receive."

### REMARKABLE LONGEVITY.

Some time ago, the case of Mr. Azgill Gibbs, of Rochester, N.Y., was briefly noticed in this journal (p. 138 of vol. 3). Mr. Gibbs was said to be the oldest lawyer in the world, engaged in actual practice. This example of vigor and longevity is better authenticated than the majority of such cases, for it happens that Mr. Gibbs' son is editor of Hall's *Journal of Health*, and the December issue of that periodical says:—

"Mr. Gibbs is now in his 94th year, and for seventy years has never been absent from his office for a single day on account of illness. He is to-day in the enjoyment of perfect health and in possession of all his faculties. This wonderful longevity and freedom from illness

are the direct result of a course of living which this journal has advocated for more than a quarter of a century. . . . . The secret of this long exemption from any serious disease and of this green old age is an open one. It is simply the avoidance in daily life of such things as all the world knows impair the health and strength of mankind and bring on decay. Mr. Gibbs has never used tobacco in any form, and as for intoxicating liquors, he is ignorant of their taste. His diet has always been ample but simple. Fond of the pleasures of the table, he enjoys them in moderation. An active and laborious life has been sweetened and prolonged by a rigid enforcement of the homely but golden rule, 'Do not fret.'"

### ONTARIO JUDICATURE ACT.

A Committee appointed to consider the proposed new Judicature Act of Ontario, has reported several suggestions in amendment to the bill as follows: First, The abolition of all unnecessary distinctions between the courts of law and equity, even in the names of the courts. Second, The decentralization as far as possible of the business of the courts, and, with that object, the establishment of the divisions of the proposed High Court in such places in the East, Centre and West of the Province as shall be most convenient and suitable, with the Court of Appeal at Toronto. Third, A practice which shall include all forms of actions, and under which actions shall be conducted, as far as possible, from their commencement to their termination, in the locality in which the litigation shall arise.

### SIR JAMES W. COLVILLE.

The decease of another prominent English Judge is reported. The Right Hon. Sir James W. Colville, who delivered the judgment of the Privy Council in *Molson & Carter* on the 27th of November, died suddenly at his residence, Rutland Gate, on the 5th December, aged 70. He was the eldest son of the late Andrew Colville, of Ochiltree and Craigflower (for many years Governor of Hudson's Bay Territory), by his second wife, sister of the first Earl of Auckland, Governor-General of India; he was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge. In 1848 he was appointed Judge of the Su-