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DIARY FOR DECEMBER.

3. Sun... *Advent Sunday.*
4. Mon.. Armour, J., sworn in Q.B., 1877.
5. Tue.. County Court sittings begin.
6. Wed.. Rebellion in Canada, 1837.
9. Sat. . . Michaelmas Sittings end.
10. Sun.. *2nd Sunday in Advent.*
11. Mon.. Blake, V.C., sworn in, 1872.
12. Tue.. County Court Sittings (except York) begin.
13. Fri. . . Morrison, J., sworn in Court of Appeal, 1877. Christmas vac. in Supreme Ct. and Exch. Ct. begins.

TORONTO, DEC. 1, 1882.

WE regret to say, both for his own sake and for that of our readers, that the gentleman who has hitherto prepared, with so much care and success, the "Recent Decisions" and "Notes of English Practice Cases" for this journal, has been seriously ill for some time, thus causing a temporary break in the series. We trust, however, that he will soon be able to take up the thread of his narrative again.

THE "act of God or the Queen's enemies" is supposed to cover a multitude of difficulties. It has recently been held by the Supreme Court of California in *De Thomas v. Witherby*, (Central L. J., Oct. 20), that when property which has been wrongfully replevied is destroyed by act of God, such destruction will not relieve the liability of the wrong-taker. The point was in doubt in the American Courts, but this decision will doubtless be accepted as final, being founded on reason and justice.

THE conveyancing shoe is beginning to pinch in England. Since Lord Cairns' Act, which has reduced the length of conveyances, clients seem occasionally to have been staring

at the continued length of their bills, being under the impression that the latter should be curtailed as well as the former. And worse than that, in country places it is said that this business is falling into the hands of accountants, and such like. A correspondent of a cotemporary says, "We have to pay for renewal certificates, like auctioneers—£6 for a country solicitor, £10 for the other. We are without the slightest protection—the auctioneer fully so. It may not be hard for large offices; but country solicitors, of small practice, complain bitterly."

MORE than a year ago (ante vol. 17, p. 201) we did not scruple to denounce the legislation which has come before the Courts in the *cause celebre* of *McLaren v. Caldwell*. The Supreme Court, which has just upset the majority judgment of the Court of Appeal, was so impressed with the iniquity of the measure, as to say that it was not possible to attribute to the Legislature an intention so "unreasonable and unjust," and, giving that body credit for a desire to do justice, decided that it never intended, and therefore had not in law interfered with the enjoyment of Mr. McLaren's rights as a private citizen. The Court was unanimous, and it is to be hoped, for the credit of the country, that there will be an end of a very questionable piece of legislation; and those that were concerned in it should thank the Supreme Court for thus giving them a loop-hole to creep out of.

A COTEMPORARY in the United States says: "In a composite form of government like ours, a certain amount of friction must inevitably be generated by the workings of the