

MEETING OF COUNTY JUDGES.

with on subjects of difficulty. Each Judge does, and in the new points daily arising in his multitudinous duties, each Judge must decide them according to what is right in his own eyes, without that "talking it over" which is so necessary to bring out the various points of a case, and to show it in its different bearings and aspects. Isolation, moreover, almost inevitably tends in the large majority of men to narrow the legal mind.

None feel these difficulties more than the County Judges themselves, and we are not therefore surprised to see, and are very glad to be able to chronicle the efforts that they are making (with some not very brilliant exceptions) to remedy the evil as far as it lies in their power to do so. Hence the meeting of County Judges to which we alluded in our last issue.

On the 24th of July last a large number of them met at Osgoode Hall, in the Convocation Room, which had been placed at their service for that purpose, and inaugurated a series of meetings which we cannot but think will have a most beneficial effect in the administration of justice in the Local Courts.

His Honor Judge Gowan presided. The fact of his being Chairman of the Board of County Judges would in itself entitle him to this distinction, but in other respects it was fitting that one who has for years thoroughly commanded both the confidence of his brethren and that of the public, should in this as he has done on other occasions, take a leading part in matters of law reform. To his influence, combined with the energetic action of the best of the County Court Bench is mainly due the organization of these meetings, and to his tact and management as Chairman is largely attributable the success of the meeting which has recently terminated.

Although much was done in the way of organization and preliminaries, it would be unfair to expect too much from

that which is but a commencement. We take, moreover, some small share of blame to ourselves for not being in a position to detail more fully what did take place of a generally instructive character. We intend, however, in future to be better prepared to relate what may be useful to our readers, and in this matter we are promised the valuable assistance of the Judges themselves and their Secretary.

Of the various subjects brought before the meeting we may mention that discussions took place as to the practice under the Partition Act, and a conclusion arrived at that it should be settled by rules, and that suggestions as to these rules, and as to the fees of officers, &c., should be made to the Judges of the Superior Courts, and for this purpose a committee consisting of Judges Jones, McDonald and Hughes was appointed to draft rules and frame a tariff, &c.—As to which is the better mode of taking evidence under sec. 4 of the Married Woman's Real Estate Act of 1873, whether *in vivo* by the Judges, or by affidavit, and how the evidence should be perpetuated.—As to the meaning of the word "claim" in the Division Court Amendment Act of 1869, and the extent to which an attachment affects a debt due by the garnishee to the primary debtor, under that Act.—As to the practice to be followed in case of an appeal to a County Judge from the award of an Assignee under the Insolvent Acts.—As to the jurisdiction of the County Judges under 31 Vict. cap. 26.—As to the expediency of having a fixed salary to Surrogate Judges in lieu of fees, and as to which a committee consisting of Judges Gowan, McDonald, Hughes, Kingsmill, and Burrows, was appointed to endeavor to obtain a practical result in that direction.—As to the proof of wills made in a foreign country, of real estate in Ontario, then being a resident executor, the others residing abroad, &c.