

LOCAL MASTERS IN CHANCERY.

the past and think that what has been still is, or possibly sometimes by disappointed solicitors, we venture to say a few words in their defence. The attacks on the Masters, moreover, are an indirect censure on the Judges of the Court of Chancery, to which they are certainly not open.

In some of the smaller towns it is not so easy to induce a practitioner with a good Chancery business to give it up for the lesser emoluments arising from master's fees, and the Judges of the Court have to make the best selection which the material at hand supplies. The Judges are not blind to the requirements of business, nor are they insensible to the necessity of having the best men they can get for these responsible situations. They are, moreover, entitled to great credit for their exertions in introducing from time to time more speedy and satisfactory modes of conducting business into a Court, the name of which had become a by-word of contempt and dislike.

Changes have been made in the personnel of the Local Masters as occasion offered, and though there may yet be three or four who might be replaced with advantage, and who will, doubtless, eventually give place to better men like others have done, it is highly unjust to speak of the whole in the general terms of reproach that have been used in some of the letters referred to.

A very little consideration of the subjoined list will shew that, as a body, the Local Masters must possess the confidence of their brethren. Twelve out of the thirty-six are County Court Judges, whilst it would be a difficult matter to find better men than those who hold office in all the larger centres of business such as London, Kingston, Hamilton, &c., and Ottawa, Peterboro' and Lindsay (where there is a choice); and most of the other towns in the same way. There is no doubt that so far as possible, County

Judges should be selected, and that has evidently not escaped the attention of the Judges of the Court of Chancery, as recent appointments point in that direction. The payment of Local Masters by fees is an undoubted evil. So far as possible, County Judges should be selected and they should be properly paid. A salary commensurate with the work they now do, and with what would be required of them as Local Masters, would hurt no one, and would be an inducement to the best men to accept positions which at present do not command the best talent at the Bar. The following is the present list of Local Masters:

Algoma—Judge McCrae,
Barrie—James R. Cotter.
Belleville—Samuel S. Lazier.
Berlin—Anthony Lacourse, Junior Judge.
Brampton—Judge Scott.
Brantford—Judge Jones.
Brockville—J. D. Buell.
Cayuga—Judge Stevenson.
Chatham—Robert O'Hara.
Cobourg—Wm. H. Weller.
Cornwall—J. F. Pringle, Junior Judge.
Goderich—Henry McDermott.
Guelph—J. Watson Hall.
Hamilton.—Miles O'Reilly, Q.C.
Kingston—Jas. A. Henderson, Q.C.
Lindsay—Wm. H. Weller, and Judge
Dean, (Concurrent).
London—Jas. Shanly.
L'Orignal—Judge Daniell.
Milton—Judge Miller
Napanee—Samuel S. Lazier.
Ottawa—W. M. Matheson, and Robt.
Cassels, Jr., (Concurrent).
Owen Sound—Jas. Masson.
Picton—Samuel S. Lazier.
Pembroke—Thos. Deacon.
Perth—Judge Senkler.
Peterborough—Wm. H. Weller, and Chas.
A. Weller, (Concurrent).
Sandwich—Samuel S. Macdonell.
Sarnia—Peter T. Pousett.
Simcoe—C. C. Rapelge.