

LAW SOCIETY, HILARY TERM—THE BENCH AND BAR OF QUEBEC.

election of a Benchman in his place, on the first Tuesday of next Term.

The petition of J. C. Johnston allowed.

Messrs. Benson, Blake and Burton were appointed a Committee to attend examinations in vacation before next Term.

Mr. Evans appointed Examiner for next Term, and the usual Fee ordered to be paid him for his services as Examiner this Term.

Mr. Lemon elected a Benchman in place of Mr. Palmer.

The Hon. D. E. Blake elected a Benchman in place of the Hon. S. H. Blake.

The appointment by the Treasurer of Mr. Esten as Secretary, Sub-treasurer and Librarian confirmed.

Salary from 1st December 1872, up to 21st December in same year, ordered to be paid to Mr. Salter J. Vankoughnet, late Reporter of the Common Pleas.

Report of the Committee on Reporting received and adopted, and a contract respecting the Chamber Reporting ordered to be entered into on the basis mentioned in the report, subject to approval of Committee on Reporting.

Ordered that fifty cents be added to annual Certificate Fee, for the purpose of paying postage on Reports.

Mr. McCarthy gave notice for first Tuesday of next Term of a resolution for the meeting of Convocation during Vacation.

The Treasurer and Messrs. McKenzie, Blake, Burton and Moss were appointed a Committee to urge upon Government better terms in the surrender of part of the Osgoode Hall property to the Crown.

\$1,400 granted to the Library Committee for the purchase of American Reports.

The Hon. D. E. Blake appointed on the Library Committee in the place of the Hon. S. H. Blake.

J. HILLYARD CAMERON,
Treasurer.

SELECTIONS.

THE BENCH AND BAR OF QUEBEC.

Can any member of the Bench or Bar, placing his hand *sur sa conscience*, after the fashion of speech of our compatriots, say that the legal profession holds the place which it should occupy in the Province of Quebec? No judge, no lawyer can by any possibility have so low an idea of his profession as to answer the question in the affirmative. What then have been the causes productive of this degradation? Is it that with the increase in importance and wealth of the mercantile class, the learned profession must lose weight in society? Is it that the capacity to make and keep money is recognized now-a-days as the most virtuous and useful occupation of man? or is it that within the last fifty years both Bench and Bar have deteriorated, and judges and lawyers at the present day are inferior to their predecessors half a century ago.

There can be no doubt that the increase of commerce and the large fortunes realized thereby have tended to raise socially the position of men engaged in trade. Whilst but very few practitioners at the Bar have realized an independence, and not one a fortune, since the commencement of the century, men are seen in the streets of Montreal every day, who, with but little education, have in the course of a few years, by successful trade or lucky speculations, amassed large fortunes and retired from business, in the flower of their age, to enjoy the delights and intellectual charms of society. To the Quebec lawyer no pleasant prospect of ease and competence in the decline of life presents itself. His life path is monotonous, shadeless, arid, dusty, resembling one of those roads traversing some of the departments in France, straight as an arrow and losing itself in the distance, without a solitary tree to break the sameness of its aspect, or to cast its grateful shade over the aching head of the way-worn traveller. The upright practice of his profession brings no reward. His learning, his talents, are of no avail in the race, for his honesty is too crushing a weight for him to live the pace with others unburdened by scruples of conscience. Verily it would seem as if it had been for the last twenty