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## DIARY FOR APRIL.

3. Sun..... 6th Sunday in Lent.
4. Mon..... C. C. term begins. C. C. sittings for trial of non-jury cases begin, except in York.
8. Fri..... Good Friday. Holiday H. C. J.
9. Sat..... County Court term ends. Lord Bacon died, 1626, *æt.* 66.
10. Sun..... Easter Sunday.
11. Mon..... Easter Monday. Holiday H. C. J.

TORONTO, APRIL 1, 1887.

THE Government at Ottawa has at length appointed a judge to the position created in 1885 by the 48 Vict. cap. 13. The choice has fallen on Thos. Robertson, Q.C., a leading member of the Hamilton Bar. Mr. Robertson was called to the Bar in 1852 and has for many years enjoyed a good share of business, especially at *nisi prius*, in his own city and the surrounding country. We join with his many friends in wishing him a long and useful career in his new sphere of duty.

## PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION — ITS QUALITY AND QUANTITY CONSIDERED.

ERE these remarks are in print, we shall again have the Legislative Assembly of this Province, and soon after the Parliament of the Dominion, busily at work framing laws. The constant devising of amendments to existing laws, or altogether new ones, is considered so necessary a part of the duty of those bodies, that they would probably be thought to have demonstrated that they have no longer any reason for existence, if they should pass a session without a more or less bulky vol-

ume of statutes being issued at its close to attest their industry and usefulness.

It may very well be doubted, however, whether the continuous stream of legislation which they pour forth is, after all, such a vital necessity for our well being, or worth the somewhat costly price we pay for it. It has certainly, for some time past, been a work requiring no small amount of time to attempt to keep *au courant* with the statute law of the Dominion and the Province. Before Confederation, the task was not so difficult, as we had then but one legislative machine to watch: now we have two, and by the time a statute has been amended three or four times, as is not infrequently the case, the state of the law upon the particular subject is generally involved in an amount of obscurity, through which the legal profession has to grope with considerable caution.

Whilst repudiating any thought of imputing base motives, it is vain to expect, so long as men are human, that gentlemen who draw several hundreds of dollars a year for their attendance in the halls of Parliament, would ever be able to see that their annual attendance could be safely dispensed with; on the contrary, they would naturally feel that the safety of the constitution would be imperilled, unless for seven or eight weeks in each year they should engage in wordy wars, and give their assent to statutes as to some of which nine-tenths of them know nothing about.

Before long, the idea may force itself upon the people at large, that this mode of annual legislation, compared with the expense which it involves, is a luxury