

The Legal News.

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CONSOLIDATION OF THE STATUTES.

The Hon. James Cockburn, Q.C., of Ottawa, has been appointed commissioner for the preliminary revision and consolidation of the Dominion Statutory Laws, and Mr. Alex. Ferguson is to act as secretary. It is about twenty-two years since the last consolidation took place, and the advantage of the work now undertaken, if carefully executed, as we have no reason to doubt that it will be, can hardly be over-estimated.

THE GUILTEAU CASE.

Mr. George Scoville, the counsel defending Guiteau, is a lawyer of Chicago, and the *Chicago Legal News*, which is well informed, in justice to this gentleman, notices the case as follows:

"Mr. Scoville has been a member of the Chicago Bar for nearly thirty years, and although not an eloquent advocate or criminal lawyer, he has been regarded as a lawyer of marked ability, excellent judgment, sound integrity and untiring industry. The members of the Bar have always considered him an able associate and a dangerous opponent in a case. He has had a long and varied experience at our Bar. Heavy and important interests have been submitted to his care.

"Mr. Scoville has been wealthy, but, like many others in our city, became involved in real estate transactions and lost his property at the time of the panic, and but a few years ago had to pass through the bankruptcy court. He has now, outside of his practice, but very limited means. Word came to Mr. Scoville that our lamented President Garfield, without cause or provocation, had been shot down by Guiteau, the brother of his own wife. He tells a few confidential friends that from the conduct of Guiteau for years he is sure that he was insane, and that he feels it to be his duty, if no one else will undertake the task, to see that the defence of insanity is interposed, and to assist any eminent criminal lawyer that may be obtained to defend Guiteau. With this end in view he hastens

to Washington, and after repeated appeals he fails to obtain the aid of a single member of the American Bar. In a strange city, with no fortune at his command, single handed and alone, he undertakes the defence, laying aside technicalities, and placing it mainly on the ground of insanity. The members of the Bar who have watched the course of Mr. Scoville cannot but admire the ability he has displayed, in conducting the defence thus far under the most trying circumstances. He has controlled himself, avoided any exhibition of temper, or doing anything that should injure the prisoner or his cause. His candor has impressed the jury that he himself is honest in urging the plea of insanity. Whatever may be the result of this trial, the members of the Bar will commend the self sacrifice of Mr. Scoville, and his manly independence in standing up and insisting, against the united cry of an injured nation, that the slayer of its beloved President shall have a fair trial, and if found to be insane shall be treated as any other criminal under like circumstances."

QUEEN'S COUNSEL. — The following appointments have been made in the Province of New Brunswick:—Theophilus Desbrisay, Bathurst; William James Gilbert, Shediac; George G. Gilbert, St. John; R. Hutchinson, Richibucto; Benjamin R. Stevenson, St. Andrews; Daniel L. Hanington, Dorchester; Charles H. B. Fisher, Fredericton; Edward L. Wetmore, Fredericton; Pierre A. Landry, Dorchester.

NOTES OF CASES.

COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH.

MONTREAL, November 18, 1881.

DORION, C.J., MONK, RAMSAY, CROSS, BABY, JJ.
GRANT (plff. below), Appellant, and BEAUDRY,
(def. below), Respondent.

*Public Officer—Notice of Suit under C.C. P. 22
—Illegality of Orange Associations—C. S. L.
C., c. 10, s. 6.*

Notice of action before suit against a public officer, omitting to state where the act complained of was committed, or the residence of the plaintiff's attorneys, is insufficient.

The "Loyal Orange Institution" is an unlawful combination and confederacy, the members being bound by an oath to keep secret the proceedings of the association.