

Canada Law Journal.

VOL. XXXIV.

MAY 16, 1898.

NO. 10.

The annual meeting of the Canadian Bar Association will be held at the city of Ottawa on the 18th and 19th insts. We understand that international subjects will be largely in evidence.

The sudden death of D'Alton McCarthy, Q.C., M.P., will be received with universal regret. The profession has been deprived of one of the most brilliant advocates and soundest lawyers that has ever adorned its ranks. As a public man he had statesmanlike ability of the highest order, and it may as truly be said of him as of any knight of old that he was without fear and without reproach. The tragic circumstances attending the accident which caused his death are known to all. He never rallied, and only to a certain extent recovered consciousness, passing away on the evening of the 11th inst. at the age of 62, having been, up to the time of the accident, in full vigour of mind and body.

Our namesake of Albany again refers to the law which at present compels witnesses to "kiss the book," on tendering their evidence. It is a time-honoured custom, of no value in itself and with many disadvantages. We are told that Maryland has just placed upon the statute book a law abolishing the practice, and substituting therefor the more solemn and decorous form of swearing by uplifted hand. Three years ago Pennsylvania did the same, and others of the States will probably follow their example. This would seem distinctly better than the practice of applying the lips to a generally filthy article, or to the provision which obtains in some countries of providing Bibles covered with celluloid or other washable material.