

## JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS—MR. JUSTICE O'CONNOR.

whether on or off the Bench may he long live to enjoy the honour conferred upon him. The appointment of Mr. Justice Armour is a fitting recognition of his great ability, and as such will be recognized by all. He has in all human probability a long career of usefulness before him.

NOTHING definite has transpired as to the persons likely to be elected to fill the vacancies on the Bench in this Province. It is amusing to read the strings of names which are from time to time put forth by the newspapers as possible appointees. The more so as these lists seem usually framed on the principle of selecting the most unlikely persons for the distinction. In very few have we observed the names of men whose long standing and reputation at the Bar naturally mark them as men on whom the choice of the profession would almost instinctively fall. For instance, Mr. Christopher Robinson, Q.C., Mr. Maclellan, Q.C., Mr. Dalton McCarthy, Q.C., Mr. B. B. Osier, Q.C., Mr. Hector Cameron, Q.C., Mr. Moss, Q.C., are each and all among the foremost from whom one would expect judicial appointments to be made. The fact that our contemporaries almost invariably hit upon the names of men of inferior standing at the Bar, as the persons most likely to be appointed, arises from a general conviction that the greater stars in the firmament look upon the judicial office as either unworthy of their acceptance, or as involving too great a pecuniary sacrifice. If this is the reason, what a sad commentary it is on the effect of our parsimonious conduct as a people, in the matter of judicial salaries? The fact that it seems to be agreed by almost universal consent, that we must look to the second rank of the Bar from which to recruit the Bench, is a misfortune so great that no sensible per-

son can contemplate it without grave apprehension for the future.

## MR. JUSTICE O'CONNOR.

THE Hon. Mr. Justice O'Connor died at Cobourg on the 3rd of November inst., aged 62 years. He was born in Boston, U.S., in January, 1824, his father and mother having emigrated from Kerry, Ireland, to Boston the previous year. He, with his parents, subsequently removed to the county of Essex, in Ontario, where he received his education. When about twenty years of age, while working on his father's farm on a cold winter day, a falling tree pinned him down and jammed one of his legs between the falling tree and a stump, and this accident resulted in the loss of the limb. But for this, he might still be following the plough, but as it was, his attention was directed to the study of the law, and he was called to the Bar in Hilary Term, 1854. He was also admitted to practise law in the State of Michigan, and he was an instance of a person who could be an American citizen and a British citizen at the same time. Born of British parents he could claim, and was recognized as a British subject, and being born in Boston was a native-born American citizen. This point was tested in an election trial between him and William McGregor in the year 1874. His legal attainments soon caused him to occupy a leading position at the Bar in the Western Peninsula. He held at different times the position of Reeve of Windsor and the Wardenship of the county.

In 1863 Mr. O'Connor entered Parliament, and in 1872 joined the Administration of Sir John Macdonald as a representative of the Irish Roman Catholic inhabitants of Ontario (though why they