

EFFECT OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE ACT.—WANTS AT OSGOODE HALL.

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OF JUSTICE ACT.*

WHEN speaking recently of the effect of the Administration of Justice Act we alluded, among other results, to an apparent falling off in Chancery business. That was the general belief in the profession, but there seems to be some doubt as to the correctness of that opinion—an opinion which could not then be verified. Complete statistics are not as yet procurable, but, so far as we have been able to ascertain, they show that a much larger number of bills were filed in the year that has just closed than in any previous year; and that more bills were filed in 1875 than in 1869. The impression may partly have arisen from the Tuesday's work in Chancery having almost disappeared, owing mainly to the fact that in ejectment suits at Common Law equitable defences may now be set up, and that injunctions to restrain suits at law are now things of the past. We shall endeavour at an early day to lay before our readers as full information on this subject as we can obtain.

It is difficult of course at present to judge fully of the probable effect of the Administration of Justice Act in its bearing on the relative amount of business done in the various Courts, especially as the judges of the Common Law Courts are for the first time working under a system which is new to them, though it has been in successful operation in the Court of Chancery for some fifteen years. Speaking of this reminds us of the act introduced by Mr. Hodgins, which is reprinted on another page, which would provide for business being sent from one Court to another so as to equalize the work. There could be no objection to this as between the two Common Law Courts, but it seems too soon to be able to judge of its propriety as between a Common Law Court and the Court of Chancery. Whilst the Act alluded to contains much that we

approve of, there is in the mind of the Bench and Bar an abhorrence of those never ending changes that drives the practitioner to despair, and prevents a fair trial of that which may or may not have been wisely conceived, or may or may not have been carefully enacted.

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THIS is an age of Club. The Law Society is in the nature of a club; but, though not a club established for "social purposes," its members are bound together by well understood ties and associations. We do not propose that it should change its mission, but it is quite evident that it might have those few advantages of a social club which are not inconsistent with its main objects. For instance, why should not the initiated of Osgoode Hall have some place provided for washing their hands? How can those who frequent the western wing be expected to appear there at all hours, in conformity with one of the best known maxims of equity, without some provision of this nature? The out offices, moreover, are scarcely equal to those of the lowest tavern between here and Lake Shebandowan. Again, when "grub" is scarce we flatter ourselves we can go on short allowance as well as most men, and make up for it with the accommodating stomach of a "noble savage" when opportunity offers; but we are satisfied that it would be a great accommodation to those whose duties compel them to remain at Osgoode Hall from early in the day until late in the afternoon, if there were some place in the building where they could obtain a plain luncheon. We understand that some of the Judges have set their faces against anything of this kind, for the same reasons that led to the attempts to close the saloons of the Parliament Build-