

• The Legal News.

VOL. VIII. DECEMBER 12, 1885. No. 50.

They appear in England to have their "grand old men" on the bench as well as in the muddy pool of politics. Vice-Chancellor Bacon, according to the *Solicitor's Journal*, having triumphantly passed through a cold, has returned to work full of vigor and vivacity; and at eighty-seven years of age, displays a freshness of spirits not possessed by many of his sedate, though juvenile colleagues. Then again, it was remarked that the judges on the bench at the beginning of the last legal year, all made their appearance at the opening of the present year, the Lord Chancellor excepted, and his absence was attributable to the change of administration. The oldest of the judges will be eighty-eight next February, and their average age is sixty-three.

If leave to appeal from the decision of the Supreme Court had been granted by the Privy Council in *Montreal City Passenger Railway Co. & Parker*, the functions of the Judicial Committee would have been considerably enlarged. As Sir Richard Couch observed, it was pretty much a question of evidence, and the Judicial Committee could not disturb the judgment of the Supreme Court without undertaking to examine the evidence anew. The appeal in ordinary course having been taken away by statute, this seems to be peculiarly a case in which the appeal as "an act of grace" should not be accorded. The case had been fully discussed in three courts, and the original judgment had been restored by the final decision. "Interest reipublice ut sit finis litium."

The suggestion, in some London journals, that the reception of Chief Justice Waite (Chief Justice of U. S. Supreme Court) in England was not in keeping with that accorded to the Chief Justice of England

when he visited the United States, has elicited the following from Lord Coleridge:— "I was sorry to see from the *Albany Law Journal* that several of our papers have found fault with the reception of your good and honored chief justice. I can only say that we did our best, but he came at a most unfortunate season. The circuits were going on, and most of the judges were out of London. But he came here one day, and I announced him, and the bar received him standing, and stood up when he went away. He sat at my right hand as if he had been a member of the court. We had a reception of queen's counsel, and a curious case as to conusance of plea by the University of Oxford, in which the charters of Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth were produced in original, and the chief justice inspected them both. I pressed him and Mrs. Waite to come and stay with me, but (wisely, I think) he preferred the freedom of a hotel. However, I got together all the great lawyers I could, and gave him and Mrs. Waite a dinner. I did all in my power in other ways, not merely as a duty, but from gratitude to him and his colleagues for the great kindness and honor they showed me, and from deep and unfeigned regard for the chief justice himself. He writes to me in a strain of thorough satisfaction:— 'You know how well I was taken care of in London. Everywhere on my travels I was equally well treated. My name, if I chose to give it, was a passport to any place I wanted to see, and on the circuit I met Baron Pollock at Lincoln, and Mathew and Wills at York. They did every thing that was possible for me, and I enjoyed every moment of my stay with them. The bar of the north-eastern circuit were very anxious that I should dine with them, but I had to decline.' There is more to the same effect, but this will show you that the chief justice himself had no sense of slight or of discourtesy. I had proposed a bar dinner to him in one of the halls of the Inns of Court, but so many of the bench and bar must have been absent that it was thought better not to have one. I hope you will let your readers know that as far as we could we did honor to a man who most justly deserves it on every ground, public and private."