

## THE RETIREMENT OF CHIEF JUSTICE LEFROY.

## DIARY FOR NOVEMBER.

1. Thurs.. *All Saints.*
8. Satur... Articles, &c. to be left with Secretary Law Soc.
4. SUN... *23rd Sunday after Trinity.*
11. SUN... *24th Sunday after Trinity.*
14. Wed... Last day for services for County Court.
18. SUN... *25th Sunday after Trinity.*
19. Mon... Michaelmas Term begins.
23. Friday. Paper Day Queen's Bench. New Trial Day Common Pleas.
24. Satur... Paper Day Common Pleas. New Trial Day Queen's Bench. Declare for County Court.
25. SUN... *26th Sunday after Trinity.*
29. Mon... Paper Day Queen's Bench. New Trial Day Common Pleas.
27. Tues... Paper Day Common Pleas. New Trial Day Queen's Bench.
28. Wed... Paper Day Queen's Bench. New Trial Day Common Pleas.
29. Thurs.. Paper Day Common Pleas.
30. Friday, *St. Andrews.* New Trial Day Queen's Bench.

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## THE RETIREMENT OF CHIEF JUSTICE LEFROY.

History tells us that last century was fruitful in the birth of many great men, of whom some have gone to render their last account, whilst some of those still with us are living monuments of gigantic intellect and immense physical powers. Small wonder is it then that after the lapse of the best part of a century, their strength is on the wane.

The names of some of the eminent lawyers who have presided on the English Bench: Lord Lyndhurst, Lord St Leonards, Lord Brougham, and Chief Baron Pollock, for example, are sufficient to exemplify the statement.

Quite as remarkable a man in many ways as some of the above, is the Right Hon. Thomas Langlois Lefroy, late Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench, in Ireland. He was born in the early part of 1776, and is therefore more than ninety years of age. He was called to the Irish Bar in 1797, was appointed Baron of the Exchequer in 1841, and in 1852, was promoted to the Chief Justiceship, an office which he resigned only a few months ago.

The long retention of office by one so advanced in years—who, it might be thought would gladly, at his time of life, be rid of the toils of Court, who had done much more than is the usual share of labour allotted to man,

and might therefore gracefully have retired and left the work to be carried on by younger men—has been the cause of much discussion in England as well as Ireland, both in the Houses of Parliament and by outside members of the profession. As much as ten years ago the advisability of his removal, or rather a suggestion to him to retire, was moved in Parliament, but was at once put down. During the early part of this year however the subject was again brought up, and in a much more intensified form—motions not founded on constitutional precedents, or on the statutes in that behalf were brought forward in both Houses of Parliament by political opponents. whilst correspondents in Ireland, in the same interest, made statements more or less founded on fact, as to his partial, some even said total incapacity, to conduct properly the business of his Court, and referring particularly to his conduct on a trial for murder in King's County. These attacks only seemed to strengthen the resolve of the sturdy old Judge to stand his ground and choose his own time for retiring from the Bench. His view of the matter may best be given in his own words in his reply to an address from the Grand Jury of King's County at a recent assize:—

"Allow me to express my cordial thanks for the gratifying address I have just received. Such testimony as yours to the efficient discharge of my judicial duties during the long period for which I have presided at the assizes of your county must ever be a source of honourable pride and pleasure to me. And if under ordinary circumstances your address would be calculated to afford me pleasure, I owe it to you to say how much its value is enhanced by recent events, affording, as it does, the best refutation of the unworthy and unjust attack to which I have been lately exposed. Most of you were eye and ear-witnesses at the trial which was made the groundwork of that attack. Such an address from witnesses of your intelligence, rank, and independence may well compensate for any personal annoyance I have heretofore suffered from that attack. But it is on public rather than on personal grounds that attacks of this kind are to be deplored. Our law has provided ample security against incompetence or neglect of duty on the part of those who occupy the judicial seat, and no one who values the independence of our Judges can see with indifference those who should be the protectors of that independence becoming its assailants. No one can see without regret the remedy which was