

THE LEGAL NEWS.

VOL. XX.

DECEMBER 1, 1897.

No. 23.

CURRENT TOPICS.

The acceptance by Sir Oliver Mowat, Minister of Justice of Canada, of the office of lieutenant-governor of Ontario, probably brings to a close the active connection of Sir Oliver with the legal profession. His resignation of a seat on the superior bench of Ontario—that of vice-chancellor—was a proceeding not usual in this country, nor in England, though there have been several instances in England of county court judges resigning in order to take other positions. For example, Mr. Kenelm Digby, who has pleaded many Canadian cases before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, not long ago resigned his position as judge of a county court, to take an important permanent position in the Department of the Secretary of State. Sir Oliver Mowat held office as judge of the Chancery Division from 14th November, 1864, to 26th October, 1872, when he resigned. His subsequent career as premier of the province fully justified the step, and there can be little doubt that in this position he has been at least as useful to the profession of Ontario and to the public as if he had retained his seat on the bench.

The November term of the Court of Appeal at Montreal was almost a surprise in the amount of work disposed of. Out of 44 cases on the list 32 were heard within eight