

ment, by its own members, or by the petitions of the people. Bills which have passed both branches of the legislature, must receive the assent of the Lieutenant-Governor before they become law ; and they are then subject to the approval or disallowance of Her Majesty in Council.

JUDICIAL INSTITUTIONS.

The Courts of Justice are, the Supreme Court, Court of Vice Admiralty, Court for the trial and punishment of Piracy, Probate Courts, Courts of Marriage and Divorce, Inferior Courts of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace, and Justices' Courts. The Court of Chancery has been recently abolished, and its powers and duties transferred to the Supreme Court. This Court consists of a Chief Justice and four assistant Judges ; its jurisdiction extends to all criminal cases, and civil suits where the amount in dispute exceeds five pounds, except in cases of appeal from the Justices' Courts. It sits at Fredericton, four terms in each year, and the Judges go on circuit, and hold the Assizes in each county, the same as in England.

The Court of Vice Admiralty is held at the City of St. John, and is presided over by one Judge, holding his commission from the Crown. This Court decides maritime causes, and has jurisdiction over prizes taken in war. The Court for the trial and punishment of Piracy and other offences committed on the high seas, consists of the Lieutenant Governor, the Chief Justice and other Judges of the Supreme Court, the members of the Executive Council, the Judge of the Vice Admiralty, the Provincial Secretary and the Provincial Treasurer, with the flag officers and captains and commanders of ships of war on the station for the time being. It sits at any place within the Province, appointed by any three of its members, the Lieutenant Governor, the Chief Justice, or one of the Judges of the Supreme Court, or the Judge of the Vice Admiralty, being one.

The Courts of Probate are held in each county, by Surrogate Judges appointed by the Lieutenant Governor. These Courts are always open for the transaction of business, although regular sittings are usually held once in each