

QUEEN'S COUNSEL—THE PROFESSIONAL ARENA.

cause for his taking the course which a nice sense of propriety indicated. His brethren, whilst echoing the regret, will fully appreciate the action of Mr. Bethune. Others in the same position have not felt called upon to take this step, doubtless under the belief that the judgment of the Court does not decide the question. It is difficult to form an accurate opinion on the questions involved until after the case is reported.

It is supposed by some that the difficulty may be met by the Governor-General appointing those whose precedence and distinction has been questioned. Should Her Majesty's representative leave out of his list a few of those who have but scant claim to the honour, no great harm would result to the profession at large, nor be displeasing, we should suppose, to those who are unquestionably entitled to it.

THE PROFESSIONAL ARENA.

It was our unpleasant duty last month to animadvert upon the conduct of a member of the profession who had acted in a manner which we were compelled to characterise as illegal and unprofessional. We regret that an act of misconduct of another kind on the part of another barrister, residing in Toronto, has become so notorious that it would be affectation on our part to ignore it. In truth we should have been glad to have passed it over in silence, because, though fortunately uncommon, it was very discreditable. But that which the Chancellor of Ontario thought of so much importance as to have brought formally before the Court cannot well be overlooked; and it is now noticed, not so much in reference to the severe rebuke administered to the individual concerned, as a warning

to others, who might be emboldened to follow a bad example were no notice taken of the occurrence.

It appears that two solicitors, a Mr. A. and a Mr. B. appeared before Mr. Thom, Taxing Officer of the Court of Chancery, in Toronto, on the taxation a bill of costs. A question having arisen as to some small item, Mr. A. declared that a statement made by Mr. B. was false, and that Mr. B. knew it to be false, &c. Mr. B. appealed for protection to the Taxing officer; but Mr. A. continued to use similar expressions to, or in reference to Mr. B., in reference to various other items, which, but for the forbearance of the latter must have ended in a *fracas* there and then. We do not care to record the words used, but they were (as appears by the affidavit of Mr. Thom) of the most grossly insulting nature, and made in the presence of several other persons. The officer declined to continue the taxation, if such conduct was persisted in, and subsequently the parties left. Mr. B., however, after leaving the room asked Mr. A. to repeat what he had said in the office, which being done, Mr. B. with much promptitude administered a thrashing to Mr. A., much to the amusement of several witnesses waiting in the lobby to be heard before the Master. Mr. B. thereupon sent an apology to the Master, within the sanctity of whose domain the offence had been committed, for *his* share in the melee. The Master having obtained an affidavit of the facts from Mr. Thom laid the whole matter before the Chancellor, who subsequently directed counsel to bring it before the Court by way of motion to strike Mr. A. off the rolls.

When the motion came on for hearing, counsel appeared for Mr. A. and read an apology on his behalf. The Chancellor having asked if Mr. A. had also apologised to Mr. B., and being answered in