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## DIARY FOR MARCH.

1. Thurs. St. David's Day.
4. Sun. 4th Sunday in Lent.
5. Mon. Osler, J., appointed 1879
6. Tues. Co. Ct. for York, sitt. begin. Ct. of Appeal sitt. begin. Name of York changed to Toronto, 1834.
11. Sun. 5th Sunday in Lent.

TORONTO, MARCH 1, 1883.

It has been recently settled by the Queen's Bench Division in England, that if an ox become unmanageable on a public highway, and through no negligence or want of skill on the part of the driver, rushes into an adjoining tenement, and does damages, the owner of the animal is not liable. *Tillett v. Ward*, 44 L. T. 546, therefore decides an interesting question as to who foots the bill for the eccentricities of a "bull in a china shop."

WE read in the *Times* of the final retirement of Mr. Benjamin, Q.C., from practice. Mr. Benjamin has for many years been almost the leader of the English Bar in all heavy appeal cases. His career has been very remarkable. He was born in 1811, on the island of St. Croix. His parents were English, but of Jewish persuasion. He spent three years at Yale, and was called to the Bar at New Orleans as long ago as 1832. He soon acquired a large practice in the courts of the United States, and sat for some time as Senator for Louisiana. When war broke out between the Northern and Southern States Mr. Benjamin gave his undivided and most active adherence to the Confederate cause. He was Attorney-General, Minister at war, and ultimately chief Secretary of State to Jefferson Davis; and when General Lee had to surrender his sword at Appotomax, Mr. Benjamin, whose personal safety was in danger,

had to escape as best he could. He had been in reality the soul of the rebellion. His entire property was confiscated, and it is an interesting fact that his law library was bought in by public subscription and presented to him. It is now in his chambers in the Temple. He came to England, and through the personal influence of Lord Cairns was called to the Bar after keeping his terms for one year only. He at once acquired a large practice at Liverpool, where the principal firms of solicitors have intimate relations with the leading legal houses of New Orleans. Within six years he was given silk, and since then has been engaged in almost every case of importance. He has never taken any part in English politics, and has always lead an extremely retired life.

## THE SUPREME COURT AND ITS CRITIC.

COMPLAINTS have been made of late years that the liberty of the press has degenerated into license. When the lay press attacks the Bench (and it is pleasant to know that it has not often so offended), it is in general charitably attributed to ignorance, or to the spleen of some disappointed suitor. It is reserved for a legal journal to use language towards a Judge of the Supreme Court quite as outrageous and unjustifiable as any that has yet appeared in the columns of the most reckless partizan sheet.

It was decided by the Superior Court of the Province of Quebec, that the notice of action in *Grant v. Beaudry*, was insufficient, and the suit was therefore dismissed. Our readers will remember that this suit was brought by the Orange Grand Master against the Mayor of Montreal for false arrest.