

## THE NEW VICE-CHANCELLOR.—PROCEEDINGS IN CONVOCATION LAST TERM.

## THE NEW VICE-CHANCELLOR.

Whilst discussing recently the probable successor of Mr. Mowat, we expressed a hope that the appointment might be made without delay, and that political considerations might not influence the selection. The seat has been filled with promptitude, and by the choice of a gentleman opposed in politics to the Dominion Government.

Whilst admitting that the appointment of Mr. S. H. Blake was to us, as we believe to a large number in the profession, somewhat a matter of surprise, we are bound to say that the feeling did not arise in the least from any doubt as to his capacity for the office. It was rather that it was thought that some older member of the Bar, having at least equal claims, would have been appointed; and, on the other hand, that Mr. Blake would scarcely resign his lucrative practice at his time of life, for the hard work and bad pay of a Vice-Chancellorship.

But though young in years, Mr. Blake has had, during all the time he has been in practice, the management of a very large business; and upon him has devolved, to a great extent, the immense counsel business of his talented brother, which the latter handed over to him when he withdrew for a time from the active pursuit of the profession of which he is so great an ornament. It is a sign of no inconsiderable ability that he has been able, in a great measure, even for a time, to take his brother's place; therefore, judging of the future from the past, though success at the Bar does not necessarily imply a fitness for a judicial position, we can give the appointing power credit for having made a good selection from the Equity Bar.

Mr. Blake was called to the Bar in Hilary Term, 1860. On the 16th March last, he was given a silk gown by the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, at the same time as Dr. McMichael, Wm. Proudfoot, C. S. Patterson, E. B. Wood, John T. Anderson and Thos. Moss received the like distinction. The legality of this action on the part of the Local Government was called in question at the time, and we are free to confess that the arguments against it seemed to us unanswerable.

In his private capacity Mr. Blake bears an irreproachable character, and his liberality in religious and charitable undertakings is well known.

On Wednesday, the 11th inst., the new Vice-Chancellor was installed and took his seat on the Bench, after receiving the congratulations of the Chancellor and the senior Vice-Chancellor.

## PROCEEDINGS IN CONVOCATION LAST TERM.

Much important business was done during the present Term. The usual *resumé* will be given next month. We can at present only refer shortly to matters of pressing interest.

Under recent regulations, articled clerks will be required to pass a preliminary examination as well as students. Notice is to be given by a Bencher in one Term for the next Term, but notice for the next February examination may be given by the 1st January next. Of this let those desiring to become articled clerks take due notice; for it is also provided that service under articles will only count from time of passing. The fees required will be one dollar with the notice, and forty dollars on presentation for examination.

Rules were also adopted for the establishment of a Law School. These will be published at length hereafter. Mr. Alex. Leith was elected President of the School and Lecturer on Real Property, at a salary of \$1,000 per annum. The other lecturers appointed were: Mr. J. Bethune, on General Jurisprudence; Mr. Z. A. Lash, on Commercial and Criminal Law; and Mr. Charles Moss, on Equity, at salaries of \$800 each.

Mr. Vankoughnet having resigned the office of Reporter of the Common Pleas, which he held under the old arrangement, Mr. George F. Farman was appointed in his place.

## JUDGES RETURNING TO THE BAR.

In view of the resignation of the late Vice-Chancellor Mowat, and his acceptance of the office of Attorney-General for the Province of Ontario, which involves his return to the Bar, a good deal of attention has been directed to what the lay press has called "this unprecedented act." We give below, as promised in our last number, the examples which we have recollected or discovered, of Judges of the Superior Courts returning to practice.

By the aid of Mr. Foss's valuable volumes, one is able to make out a tolerably correct list of all such changes as have taken place at the