

OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

the more appropriate title of "solicitor." We trust we may assume that the Benchers of the Law Society of Ontario did not, by their ignoring Imperial legislation, intend to show their political leanings towards a policy which Lord Salisbury declares is a menace towards the "dismemberment of the Empire."

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ANOTHER change of Government has produced great excitement at the Bar, since a shuffling of the Cabinet cards involves not only a redistribution of honours, but also a diffusion of work. Sir Farrer Herschel is Lord Chancellor; in other words, business to the extent of £15,000 a year, or thereabouts, is cast loose. Some of it will go, no doubt, to those modest-looking chambers in Pump Court, where the late Attorney-General, Sir Richard Webster, carries on a tremendous practice. But it is doubtful whether this great lawyer can take in more business; he can only increase his fees. Then Mr. Charles Russell, Q.C., and Mr. Horace Davey, Q.C., have become respectively Attorney and Solicitor-General, which means, of course, that neither of them can manage to keep the whole of their private practice so long as Mr. Gladstone's Government endureth. One begins to look round among the Queen's Counsel to see who the coming men are. Honours appear to be about equally divided between Mr. Murphy, Q.C., Mr. Lockwood, Q.C., and Mr. Crump, Q.C. They are men of different types. Mr. Murphy is of the gently-humorous Irish type of advocate; a sound lawyer and an admirable man with a jury. Mr. Lockwood, who is something of a wit, with a failing for caricature. As one listens to one of his boisterous, but incisive speeches, it is impossible to forget those

exquisitely funny sketches which he produces during his leisure moments in Court; and the next thought, which suggests itself is that this is a Yorkshireman pure and simple. The latter impression is peculiarly strong when Mr. Lockwood cross-examines a reluctant witness; for there is no cross-examining counsel so crafty or so successful. Mr. Crump has been described in your columns before.

Meanwhile, let me turn for a moment to the admirable almanac which has recently arrived from the CANADA LAW JOURNAL. Politics have rendered it inaccurate as regards the English Judiciary. For Lord Halsbury insert Baron Herschel; for Sir Richard Webster, Q.C., insert Sir Charles Russell, Q.C.; and in the blank place left for the Solicitor-General let the name of Sir Horace Davey, Q.C., appear. Also, as regards the judges of the Queen's Bench Division, Sir John Eldon Gorst did not accept the vacancy created by the elevation of Sir Henry Lopes to the Court of Appeal, and the change which has been made will be best indicated by saying that it will be a futile enterprise for any Canadian firm to send a Privy Council brief to him who was Mr. Grantham, Q.C., since that gentleman has changed his silk gown for a red one with an ermine tippet.

Were it not that the Divorce Court during the trial of a *cause célèbre* is the most intolerable place on this earth, your correspondent would at this moment be listening to the argument in *Crawford v. Dilke*. But the discomfort of being packed like a herring in a barrel is too much to be counterbalanced by the pleasure of hearing a statesman's character ripped up before a bevy of fair and titled spectators. Nor is the business of the Divorce Court a savoury one at the best of times; and perhaps it is hardly creditable to English ladies that on an occasion of this sort the President of the Probate, Divorce and Admiralty Division should be inundated