

THE NEW CHANCERY JUDGES—THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

suggested to some, that this question, like others, has two sides to it, and we shall, for the present, be satisfied if we have caused any of the promoters of the scheme, to pause and consider more carefully its probable results.

THE NEW CHANCERY JUDGES.

The recent appointment of Mr. Spragge to the Chancellorship, and Mr. Strong to the seat vacated by Mr. Spragge's promotion, will give great satisfaction. The present Chancellor has risen step by step to his present high position, and none will grudge him his well-earned honors. The hopes of his many friends that his services would not be overlooked on the first available occasion have not been disappointed, and amongst the profession the elevation of this able, conscientious and most pains-taking judge—a man who has deservedly won the respect and regard of all—meets with general and hearty approval.

The new Vice-Chancellor has established a reputation second to none as an equity counsel; and the Equity Bench, as well as the Court of Appeal, will be greatly strengthened by the learning and talent that he will add to them.

The Chancellor took his oath of office at Ottawa, but Mr. Strong was sworn in at Os-
goode Hall. The Bar was largely represented, and after the formal part of the proceedings were concluded, Hon. J. H. Cameron, Q.C., on behalf of the profession (we copy from one of the daily papers),

"Offered the congratulations of the bar to the Chancellor. He said that if anything could lessen the pain felt at loss of the able and well-beloved man who had last filled the high office of Chancellor so well, it would be the wisely and well-ordered action of the government in the choice of his successor. It gave him (Mr. Cameron) particular pleasure to be the medium of conveying the expression of the Bar's feeling towards his Lordship. There was no member of the Bar who had had so long and intimate acquaintance of his Lordship's career. He (Mr. Cameron) had been first his Lordship's student, then his partner, and lastly a practitioner in his court—his whole acquaintance extending over half the time allotted to man. He could, therefore, well appreciate the high qualities of his Lordship, and know how well and honorably he had performed his duties. He cordially joined in the wish which he offered on behalf of the Bar, that his Lordship might live long and happily to enjoy the office to which he had been appointed and which he was so competent to fill.

Mr. Cameron, addressing Vice-Chancellor Strong, also tendered the warmest congratulations of the profession. The Chancellor had

been so long in an official position, that there were few members of the bar who could remember him at the Bar. Mr. Strong, however, was fresh from the legal arena and its contests, and so seemed nearer to the profession. He considered that the Bench had a material assistance in the appointment of a Judge who was in the full vigor of manhood, and eminently in the possession of mental and physical strength. He hoped the Vice-Chancellor would long live to to enjoy his new dignity.

The Chancellor briefly returned thanks, saying that he could not make a return in set words and phrases, as the congratulations of the Bar had taken him by surprise. His Lordship then referred in touching terms to the worth and talent, the kindly heart, and amiable qualities of the late Chancellor. He said he trusted he would receive assistance from his colleagues in the discharge of his important and onerous duties, and then expressed the admiration he had always felt for the Bar of Ontario—in which could be found legal talent of which any nation might feel a just pride.

Mr. V. C. Strong also returned thanks for the expression of good will towards himself, and hoped that the same would continue. There could be nothing more assuring to a Judge entering upon his duties than such manifestations as the present. He should always conserve the privileges of the Bar, feeling that thereby he was best securing the ends of Justice."

SELECTIONS.

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

What are the "Alabama claims?" If the case of the *United States of America v. Great Britain* were now before some tribunal of competent jurisdiction, what are the precise claims that we should make, on what grounds should we urge them, and what award should we reasonably and fairly expect from an intelligent arbitrator? The failure of the recent attempt at negotiation having set the whole subject once more afloat, it is well to consider where we stand, and what is the next thing to be done. No one can suppose that a claim so large in amount, and so well founded in justice, can be waived or abandoned on our part.

It is very frequently said, that, in the present condition of the case, there is no occasion for us to do any thing at all; and this suggestion is usually received with great favor, as if it embodied a large amount of practical wisdom. We are usually told that our claim is one that will "keep;" that England has established a precedent that we can follow hereafter with much advantage to ourselves, and much inconvenience to her; that, in effect, we have put her under heavy bonds to keep the peace, and be of good behavior towards all the world; that, if ever she should venture into a war with any other power, we can cover the ocean with Alabamas, and fearfully retaliate