

Canada Law Journal.

VOL. XXI.

OCTOBER 1, 1885.

No. 17.

DIARY FOR OCTOBER.

3. Sat. First edition English Bible printed, 1535.
4. Sun. 18th Sunday after Trinity.
5. Mon. County Court and Surrogate Term (ex. York).
Non-jury Sitting of County Court (ex. York)
begin
8. Thur. Harrison, C.J., 1875.
10. Sat. County Court and Surrogate Term (ex. York)
ends.
11. Sun. 19th Sunday after Trinity. Guy Carleton, Gov-
ernor of Canada, 1774.
12. Mon. County Court and Surrogate Term (York) begin.
13. Tues. Battle of Queenston, 1812.

TORONTO, OCTOBER 1, 1885.

THE pernicious example set some years ago by Vice-Chancellor Mowat in stepping down from the Bench into the arena of party politics has been followed by Judge Thompson, of Nova Scotia, who takes the position of Minister of Justice of the Dominion. For either party after this to refer to the subject would indeed be for the pot to call the kettle black. We presume, therefore, there will be very little said about it. That there is now ample precedent for this descent is a misfortune to the country.

THE following is the appearance that the would-be patriot, whose price for selling his countrymen was thirty-five thousand dollars and probably a great deal less, presents to the intelligent editor of the *Central Law Journal*: "Riel is acting like a thorough poltroon, and the people of French descent in Canada appear to be wasting their sympathies on a most worthless character. After having endeavoured to cast the onus of his late rebellion upon his followers he now sets up the defence of insanity. He who takes up arms for a cause and fails, ought to feel that it is a part of his duty to that cause to die like a man. Even such a wretch as Guiteau could do that."

It would be an insult to their intelligence to suppose that the efforts made by certain French-Canadians to obtain a commutation or reversal of the sentence which has been most righteously passed upon Louis Riel (not here alluding to any right of appeal he may have), arises from any belief in his innocence, his insanity or any unfairness in his trial. The only possible theory for this action is that he is of the same race or religion as his sympathizers. It therefore, comes to this, that the pardon of a criminal, who deserves hanging if ever a man did—who ought to have been hanged years ago for the cold-blooded murder of a loyal citizen, Thomas Scott—is sought simply because he belongs to the ruling race of one of the Provinces of this Dominion. If he were of any other descent we venture to assert that not one voice from any one of the Provinces would be raised to save him from his most just doom.

DURING the past summer the Law Society have beautified the grounds around Osgoode Hall by the introduction of two or three flower beds. Filled with geraniums and verbenas, these beds have added very much to the beauty of the lawns. It was feared that the flowers would be over-run by dogs, or stolen by thieves. Neither contingency has happened. One individual who attempted larceny was caught and summarily punished, and the offence is not likely to be repeated. We see no reason why flowers should not be more extensively cultivated in the Osgoode Hall grounds. It is well known that the Temple Gardens in London are noted for the annual display of chrysanthemums. Why should not Osgoode Hall