

REVIEWS.

Property of married women," and very appropriately concludes with, "An Act to amend the law relating to divorce and matrimonial causes in England." The learned editor no doubt felt as we do that the one naturally leads to and feeds the other.

We recommend the book to all who may be interested in understanding this novel kind of legislation. It does not contain more than 50 pages, is neatly printed and well edited.

THE CANADIAN MONTHLY AND NATIONAL REVIEW. December 1872, and January 1873. Adam, Stevenson & Co., Publishers, Toronto.

With the December number, closes the second volume of this widely circulated periodical. It has now an established reputation, and its influence is becoming wide spread in this Dominion, whilst it is an exponent of Canadian National feeling to "outside Barbarians."

We notice in the December number, a reference to the retirement of Mr. Mowat, which substantially takes the same view of the subject as we have done. It is evidently from the pen of that master of the English language, who is the mainstay of the Review, and who has established it as a power in the land. He says in speaking of "Current Events:"

"Turning to Ontario, we find, as a matter of course, the appointment of Mr. Mowat to the Premiership unreservedly lauded by one party organ, and condemned with equal energy by the other. If the two journalists, instead of serving their parties, were speaking the truth frankly over a dinner table, both would probably agree that the appointment in itself is a very good one—Mr. Mowat being a man of undoubted character and ability—but that the transfer of a judge from the bench to a political office, if it was necessary, was a necessity much to be deplored. In a country like ours, the integrity of the judiciary is at least as important as that of the executive or the legislature; and the integrity of the judiciary can be preserved only by keeping the bench of justice entirely distinct from the political arena. The precedents cited from the English practice by the defenders of Mr. Mowat's appointment, even if they were relevant, would be more honoured in the breach than in the observance. But they are not relevant. The combination of the office of Minister of Justice with that of Chief Judge in Equity in the person of the English Chancellor is, like the judicial function of the House of Lords, a relic of a very ancient state of things anterior to the separation of the judiciary from the executive, or of either from the legislature, and it is rather retained by the national conservatism, than approved by the national judgment. Probably a separate Ministry of

Justice will be among the coming legal reforms. Meantime, the Lord Chancellor does not try controverted elections, and it is scarcely possible that any political question should ever come before him in court. That Lord Ellenborough was taken from the Chief Justiceship of a Court of Common Law into the Cabinet is true; but the measure was generally repudiated at the time, and it is certain that it will never be repeated."

The January number opens with an article on the Public Service of the Dominion, considered with reference to the present scale of prices and wages. It scarcely needs much argument to shew the utter absurdity of paying public servants the same salaries now as were paid when the value of money was 40 or 50 per cent. greater than at present. The time has come, when public opinion will insist upon our Judges, for example, being paid salaries which will enable them to live in a style commensurate with their position, and which will command the services of the best men at the Bar. Let not the government think that there is any advantage to be gained, politically or otherwise, by delay in this matter. The country would support any reasonable increase to the salaries of the Judges. It does not need a prophet to tell us that if the present small salaries are continued, inferior men only will accept the ermine, the Bench will sink in public estimation, and the country will be the sufferers in a way, and to a degree, that it is difficult to over estimate. We feel convinced that this is a matter which will commend itself to the careful attention of those who hold the helm of State.

The salaries of these latter again are a delusion and a snare, at least to those who are compelled to give up their private business for public affairs. The mere expense of entertainments devolving upon the leaders of a government would swallow up more than the paltry salaries they are paid, and leave no compensation for the labour and time devoted to the service of their country.

TREATISE ON THE LAW OF MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS, by John F. Dillon, LL.D., the Circuit Judge of the United States for the Eighth Judicial Circuit, &c. Chicago, U. S.: James Cockcroft & Co., Publishers, 1872.

We have often had occasion to admire the exhaustive and historical manner in which text writers in the United States treat subjects upon which they write.