

## THE LEGAL ARMY—QUEEN'S COUNSEL.

foot with a quizzical expression, solemnly remarked, "I fear I must pay more attention to the Judge than the Counsel."

## THE LEGAL ARMY.

Some statistics from the records of the Law Society as to the increase in the ranks of our fraternity will not be uninteresting at the close of the year. It will be pleasant to many to know that there has been a very considerable falling off during the past twelve months in the numbers of those desiring to enter the profession. We much doubt if a rush of men into the profession argues a good state of things in the country at large. It certainly is not looked upon as an un-mixed good amongst those whose names are enrolled at Osgoode Hall.

The records show that, in the year 1877, two hundred and nine young gentlemen presented themselves for examination, of whom one hundred and seventy-three passed. A larger number than usual—no less than 239—went up for examination in 1878, but the Examiners were equal to the occasion, and the slaughter was great, only one hundred and sixty-four coming back from "the jaws of death." In 1879, the number fell off considerably, one hundred and fifty-eight presenting themselves, of whom only one hundred and thirteen were successful.

In 1878, ninety-six articled clerks went up for examination, of whom seventy-two passed as attorneys, whilst in 1879 fifty-seven of the sixty-nine applicants stood the test. Of the seventy students who went before the Examiners for call, in 1878, only fifty-two were passed, whilst in 1879 nearly the same number went up for call as for attorneys (viz., sixty-seven), of whom fifty-two became barristers.

It is estimated that of those who pass

the primary examination, only about one-half carry out their original intentions by becoming attorneys.

## QUEEN'S COUNSEL.

Volumes have been written in the lay press during the past month, on the subject of the recent judgment in the Great Seal Case, or as it is otherwise styled, *Lenoir v. Ritchie*. We shall not at present discuss the judgment at any length, having only space for a *resumé* of the judgments delivered by the various Judges of the Supreme Court, and the judgment of Mr. Justice Gwynne, *in extenso*. We have obtained this judgment thinking that the views of the most recent Judge from Ontario, given in his usual careful and exhaustive manner, might best assist our readers, in this Province, (failing the judgments in full) in understanding the question. For the *resumé* we are indebted to the courtesy of Mr. Cassels, Registrar of the Supreme Court. So far the subject has been discussed in the public press solely from a party point of view. If the subject is not too stale when the politicians drop it for some more savoury bone we may take it up again.

We noticed that on the first day of the present Term, a prominent and much respected member of our Bar, who had been made a Queen's Counsel by the Lieutenant-Governor, under an Act of the Ontario Legislature, took his seat outside the Bar, and stated to the Court his reasons for so doing, namely, that as a doubt had been cast by such high authority on his right to wear silk he preferred to resume his old stuff gown. The Court without, expressing any opinion on the subject, thought that he had acted rightly; and courteously expressed the regret that there should be any