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## DIARY FOR FEBRUARY.

1. Wed.... Final Examination for Attorney.
2. Thurs.. Final Examination for Call.
3. Sun.... *Septuagesima Sunday.*
6. Mon.... Hilary Sittings begin. Hagarty, C.J., C.P., sworn in, 1856.
10. Fri.... Queen Victoria married, 1840.
11. Sat.... Lord Sydenham Gov.-Gen. of Canada, 1840.  
R. E. Caron, Lieut.-Gov. of Quebec, 1873.
12. Sun.... *Sexagesima Sunday.*
13. Mon.... Last day to move against Municipal Elections.

TORONTO, FEB. 1, 1882.

SIR GEORGE BRAMWELL, late one of the Lord Justices of Appeal, has been raised to the peerage under the title of Lord Edenbridge. As the *Law Journal* says:—He is a lawyer peer in the truest sense, having earned his honours solely through eminence as a lawyer and for past services.”

SIR JOHN HOLKER, Q.C., who was Attorney General in the Beaconsfield administration, has been appointed by Mr. Gladstone to the seat rendered vacant by the death of Lord Justice Lush. He is a very able lawyer, and will it is believed be an ornament to the Bench.

SIR MONTAGUE SMITH, who was a paid member of the Judicial Committee of the House of Lords, has retired from the Bench. The vacancy thus created will not be filled, but instead, a Lord of Appeal in the House of Lords will be appointed. Sir Montague Smith was an eminent judge, with an acute mind, and a man of great learning. He entered the profession as a solicitor.

THE Taxing Masters will be both pleased and interested to hear that there is now

judicial authority for the proposition that they exist for the purpose of being troubled. In the recent case of *Warner v. Mosses*, 45 L. T. N. S. 360, Lord Justice Brett observes: “Taxing Masters exist for the purpose of being troubled, just as Judges exist for that purpose; and therefore it is nothing to tell us that it will give the Master great trouble; we have no feelings about trouble. They must take the trouble; they must inquire in every case.” There is a good honest ring about this, which no doubt will be appreciated even by Judges and Taxing Masters.

Two rather interesting letters on the subject of insanity as a defence and excuse for criminal action are published in a recent number of our contemporary, the *Irish Law Times*. One curiously enough is written by the late President Garfield to Judge R. F. Payne, with reference to a certain trial in which the latter charged strongly against the plea of insanity, and was read by Judge Porter at Guiteau’s trial. It is as follows:—

“Dear Judge,—Allow me to congratulate you on your splendid charge to the jury at the close of the Gelentine case, The whole country owes you a debt of gratitude for brushing away the wicked absurdity which has lately been palmed off on the country as law on the subject of insanity. If this thing had gone on much further, all that a man would need to secure himself from the charge of murder would be to rave a little and tear his hair a little, and then kill his man. I hope you will print your excellent charge in a pamphlet form and send it to all the judges in the land.”

The other betrays its authorship unmistakably by its style, and was originally written by Mr. Ruskin to the *Pall Mall Gazette*. Whether the sentiment is altogether commendable or not may be questioned, but at