THE COURTS.

JAMES HARDWICK'S WILL.

A CONTEST TURNING ON THE VALIDITY OF A CHANGE OF THE TESTATOR'S NAME.

The matter of the probate of the contested will of James Hardwick was argued yesterday before Surrogate Hutchings, in the Surrogate's Court. The original name of Hardwick was James Hardwick Suare. He had, it is claimed, a wife in England, but after coming to this country married again and had several children born to him here. In 1867, after the birth of his last child, he took steps, under the New-York statute, to change his name by dropping the surname. By his will he recognized only his American wife and children. It was signed James Hardwick, and all his children and his wife were mentioned by that surname. The contest is made on behalf of the English wife and her children.

Mr. Arnoux, on behalf of the contestants, claimed that the change of name had never been perfected by the testator, since, though he had obtained the order of the Court and had published the change, it had never been recorded. He claimed, therefore, that the signature was a nullity. The Surrogate reserved his decision.

THE EXTRADITION OF AN ALLEGED SMUGGLER.

The examination of Charles L. Lawrence on a charge of forgery will take place on Monday, April 12, before the presiding magistrate of Bow Street Court, London. Lawrence was jointly indicted with Lafayette Graff, Gustave W. Ball and Deputy Collector Col. Robert Des Anges, for complicity in the recent silk smuggling frauds. When indicted, Lawrence was in Montreal, Canada, but he could not be reached because the crime of smuggling is not embraced in the extradition treaty between England and the United States. District-Attorney Bliss obtained an indictment against Lawrence for forgery, which crime is embraced in that treaty. Hearing of this indictment, Lawrence fled to Queenstown, Ireland, where he was arrested as soon as he landed. He was taken to London and committed, and Mr. Bliss was requested to send on the witnesses against him. They have arrived, and will, it is stated, by identifying Lawrence, secure his return to this city for trial.

CIVIL NOTES.

Louis F. Post tendered yesterday his resignation as an Assistant United States District-Attorney for the Southern District of New-York. It is to take effect on April 15. Mr. Post was appointed in December, 1873, and he resigns on account of having been retained as counsel in several important cases which require his entire time and attention.

UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT.

WASHINGTON, MARCH 31.—The following is a summary of the proceedings in the Supreme Court to-day:

No. 111.—The Mayor, &c., of New-Orleans, et al., in error to the Circuit Court of the United States for the District of Louisiana.—The argument of this cause was continued by Mr. Solicitor-General Phillips for the defendants in error, and by Mr. A. H. Marr, Mr. David Dudley Field, and Mr. C. Phillips, counsel for defendants in error.

COURT OF APPEALS.

ALBANY, N.Y., March 31.—In the Court of Appeals, this day:

No. 111.—Sarah A. Fullerton, appellant, agt. The Guardian Mutual Life Insurance Company, respondent.—Argument resumed and concluded.

No. 114.—Silas A. Clapp, appellant, agt. Thomas Waterman, respondent.—Argued by H. Hudson, of counsel for appellant, and by W. F. Cogswell for respondent.

No. 120.—Henry M. Tuttle, agt. The Holland Purchase Insurance Company, respondent.—Argued by counsel. Hand of counsel for appellant, and by Mr. Cogswell for respondent.

No. 126.—Calvin G. Hammond, as survivor, &c., appellant, agt. The New-York Central Railroad Company, respondent.—Argued by Wm. C. Ruger, of counsel for appellant, and by D. Pratt for respondent. Case submitted.

Information was made that the Court adjourned till to-morrow.

DECISIONS—MARCH 31.

Supreme Court—Chambers—By Judge Lawrence.—Ex parte, &c., Thomas Gardner et al., petitioners, vs. Board of Commissioners of Police, &c., respondents.—Motion denied, with costs.

In Matter, &c., Thomas, petitioner, vs. Board of Commissioners of Police, &c., respondents.—Motion denied, with costs.

Special Term—By Judge Van Brunt.—De Wolf agt. Owen.—Memorandum not received.

Superior Court—Special Term—By Judge Curtis.—Thomas et al. agt. Cornell et al.—Motion to discharge from attachment for want of jurisdiction in the first place, and, in the second place, for want of sufficient cause of action, denied.

Jackson et al. agt. Sharp.—Motion to vacate order of arrest denied.

Common Pleas—Special Term—By Judge J. F. Daly.—Kellogg agt. Gaston.—Stipulated.

CALENDARS—THIS DAY.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS—BONOHUE, J.

51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93.—Life Ins. Co. agt. Vilas; Matter of Laforge; Mooney agt. Burke, &c.; Mutual Life Ins. Co. agt. Thos. Cornell et al.; Mutual Life Ins. Co. agt. Cornell et al.; Mutual Life Ins. Co. agt. Cornell et al.; Mutual Life Ins. Co. agt