

free to say that the peccable quality in text-writers is quite superhuman—indeed we are not sure but what *inhuman* is the proper word for it.

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In *The Auer Incandescent Light Mfg. Co. (Limited) v. Dreschel et al.*, the Exchequer Court decided a question in our patent law which was theretofore *res integra*. The case turned upon the meaning of the following clause in section 8 of the Patent Act: "Under any circumstances if a foreign patent exists, the Canadian patent shall expire at the earliest date at which any foreign patent for the same invention expires." Burbidge, J., holds that the expression "any foreign patent" should be limited to foreign patents in existence when the Canadian patent was granted.

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It is commonly believed that the wig, bands and gown have constituted the forensic habit of the legal profession in England from time immemorial, but the fact is they came into vogue at a comparatively recent date. The white linen bands are a survival of the prevailing fashion amongst gentlemen at the time of the Commonwealth. The short wig dates from the Restoration; and "thus it happens," says Mr. Inderwick (*The King's Peace*, p. 200), "that by a very perversity of conservatism, that head-dress, which in the seventeenth century was worn alike by kings and courtiers, by clergymen and soldiers, by Jeffreys on the bench, and by Titus Oates in the dock, has become in the nineteenth century the distinct characteristic of the advocate and judge." Mr. Inderwick is also of the opinion that it was not until the middle of the reign of King Charles I. that counsel under the rank of serjeant took to wearing silk or stuff gowns, and thus became "gentlemen of the long robe." Until the reign of James I. the Bar in general seems to have had no official costume. The scarlet robes of the judges appear to date from a very much earlier period, and do not owe their origin to England. An old painting of the trial of Savonarola, in