

## The Legal News.

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### AWARDS OF ARBITRATORS.

In the case of *M. O. & O. Railway Co. and Bourgoin*, 2 Legal News, p. 131, the judgment of the Court of Queen's Bench, Montreal, has been affirmed by the Privy Council upon the main point in issue—the validity or invalidity of the award in favor of Bourgoin. In appeal here, it was held that an award, which, besides fixing an amount to be allowed as damages, ordered the payment by the party expropriating of a monthly sum until certain works should be executed, was null by reason of vagueness. This decision has been affirmed in England.

### THE INSOLVENT ACT.

The feeling of hostility to the Insolvent Act has again strongly developed itself at Ottawa, and it seems probable that this session it will be powerful enough to overcome the adverse majority in the Senate, by which alone the abolition of the Act was last year prevented. Mr. Colby's bill, as read a second time, is as follows :

The Insolvent Act of 1875, and the acts amending it, passed in the 39th and 40th years of Her Majesty's reign, and intituled respectively "An Act to amend the Insolvent Act of 1875," and "An Act to amend Insolvent Act of 1875, and the acts amending the same," shall be and are hereby repealed, and no Act repealed by the said acts, or either of them, shall be revived : provided, that all proceedings under the Insolvent Act of 1875 and the amending acts aforesaid, in any case where an assignee has been appointed before the passing of this Act, may be continued and completed thereunder, and the provisions of [the said acts hereby repealed shall continue to apply to such proceedings and to every insolvent affected thereby, and to his estate and effects, and to all assignees and official assignees appointed or acting in respect thereof, in the same manner and with the same effect as if this Act had not been passed.

### MR. GLADSTONE ON THE LEGAL PROFESSION.

In a recent address to the students of Glasgow University, Mr. Gladstone expressed his views upon the medical and legal professions, and was able to reassure his hearers, who might be des-

tinued for one or the other, as to the stability of their avocations. These professions, he said, "are not likely to be displaced or menaced by any of the mutations of this or a future century ; the demand for their services lies deep : if not in the order of nature, yet in the actual constitution of things, as the one is founded upon disease and the other on dissension—nay, the demand is likely to be a growing demand. With material and economic progress, the relations of property become more complex and diversified, and as the pressure and unrest of life increase with accelerated movement of mind and body, the nervous system which connects them acquires great intensity and new susceptibilities of disorder ; and intensity, disorder and suffering giving occasion for new problems and new methods of treatment, are continually developed. As the god Terminus was an early symbol of the first form of property, so the word Law is the venerable emblem of the union of mankind in society. Its personal agents are hardly less important to the general welfare than its prescriptions, for neither Statute, nor Parliament, nor Press is more essential to liberty than an absolutely free-spoken Bar. Considered as a mental training, the profession of the Bar is probably, in its kind, the most perfect and thorough of all professions. For this very reason, perhaps, it has something like an intellectual mannerism of its own, and admits of being tempered with advantage by other pursuits lying beyond its own precinct, as well as by large intercourse with the world—by studies not only such as those of art and poetry, which have beauty for their objects, but such as history, which opens the whole field of human motive as well as an art, which is not tied in the same degree to position and immediate issues, and which, introducing wider laws of evidence, gives far more scope for expanse of judgment, or, in other words, more exact conformity or more close approximation between the mind and the truth, which is in all things its proper object. We all appreciate that atmosphere of freedom which, within the legal precinct, is constantly diffused by healthy competition. The non-legal world, indeed, is sometimes sceptical as to limitations which prevail within the profession itself. It is sometimes inclined to think that of all professions its action is in these modern times most shrouded in a technicality and a