

cases on the way, did not occur. Indeed, such ludicrous incidents were impossible. When a judge goes on circuit there are certain towns and settlements where, at the time appointed, he invariably opens the court, whether there are cases to be tried or not, just as is done in England. I may add that judicial proceedings are conducted here with every regard to propriety and decorum; and that the bench and the bar of Newfoundland, in regard to ability, legal attainments and that dignified and gentlemanly demeanour which we expect in men belonging to one of the learned professions, will compare favorably with the bench and the bar of any other British colony.

"In regard to this voyage, however, his Lordship's memory has played him a still more fantastic trick than in the foregoing instance. He tells us that the party amused themselves with 'reading dime novels,' and 'playing cards in the stifling saloon below.' 'There was something rather comical in the whole proceeding.' 'To see eminent counsel staggering about the slippery deck in long boots and Guernsey frocks, and the highest functionary of the law playing profane games of cards in his shirt sleeves, condescending to exchange remarks concerning the weather with grimy stokers and tarry-breeched seamen, produced a feeling of somewhat irreverent amusement.' Here again his Lordship's reminiscences of Newfoundland have got 'tangled,' and some funny stories heard elsewhere are, no doubt, unconsciously related as having happened here. I have the highest authority for stating that on the passage not a single game of cards was played by anyone. There would have been no harm in such a thing, but the voyage proved to be a very rough one, and amusements of this kind were not attempted. The judge, to whom he attributed such vulgar conduct, is a highly esteemed gentleman, of great ability, and, in private life, quite incapable of any such indecorum as his Lordship has been pleased to credit him with. That the barristers were dressed in 'Guernsey frocks' is also ludicrously untrue. In fact the only amusing incident on the passage was supplied by his Lordship himself, who had a habit at table of taking the potatoes from the dish with his fingers—a practice which created what he calls 'a feeling of somewhat irreverent amusement' when witnessed in a peer of the

realm, whom ordinary mortals look upon with wonder, not unmixed with awe. Still the legal gentlemen were too polite to publish an account of this little peculiarity on the part of the peer. With them he has not been equally courteous. He describes the steamer as a "harbour tug," so as to convey the meanest impression of the whole affair. The Hercules is a small coasting steamer of about 130 tons, fitted up to carry passengers, and on this occasion her saloon and cabins accommodated twenty passengers. His Lordship afterward chartered her to carry him from St. John's to Halifax. To call her a "harbour tug" is misleading. Now we sometimes find vulgar "penny-a-liners" abusing hospitality, and where they have been kindly and courteously received, revealing what occurred in the confidence of familiar intercourse, and turning their hosts into ridicule for the amusement of their readers, but we did not expect to find an accomplished writer and a gentleman of high position like Lord Dunraven stooping to like conduct."

#### THE RIGHT OF ASYLUM.

Having regard to the recent outrages of Nihilism, and to the manner in which they have notoriously received active sympathy from Russia and other residents in several Continental States, it is natural that the question of the extradition of political offenders should engage a considerable amount of public attention. The German Parliament has already expressed its approbation of international treaties for the prosecution and extradition of persons guilty of attacks upon the Chiefs of States; and a proposal to the same effect was recently made in the Austrian Reichstag. Russia, again, has taken the obvious step of suggesting a conference to deliberate on practical protective measures. In these circumstances it is not surprising that a report should have arisen that representations had been made to our own Government respecting the right of asylum for political offenders in this country. Such representations would be by no means novel, for nothing, perhaps, has on previous occasions of similar character given rise to more bitter feelings in the minds of other nations than the liberty which our laws afford to foreign refugees. That Lord Granville was able, in reply to a question in the House of Lords, to pronounce this report unfounded, is probably