

lawyers and statesmen in this department than they are strictly entitled to. Notwithstanding the slowness of law reform in England and in this country, we believe it must nevertheless be admitted that both here and in England solid progress has been made, and that we are several years ahead in the matter of law reform of several, if not of all, of the States of the Union.

But even the Hon. Dudley Field, though disposed to take a somewhat optimistic view of the achievements of his countrymen, was compelled to own to at least one "fly in the ointment," and felt obliged to admit that the system of selecting judges for short terms by popular suffrage had proved a dismal and lamentable failure. We think he might also have very fittingly deplored the low estate to which the law has fallen in many States of the Union owing to the lack of decency and order, which too often characterizes its public administration.

It would have been a good object lesson for the writer of the paper to have taken his assembled hearers to view for themselves the way the law is actually administered in the great commercial metropolis of Chicago itself. So far as the external appearance of the Court House is concerned, they would have reason to admire the building set apart for the administration of justice; but as soon as they had entered within its walls, and seen the dirty-looking rooms, and remarked the utter lack of all order and decorum which prevailed therein, it is just possible they might be a trifle disillusionized, and still more so if they could then have been transported to any of the Canadian provinces across the border, and have observed how very differently justice is administered here.

It may savour of freedom of a certain class for a lawyer to sit on the edge of a table, swinging his leg backwards and forwards as he examines a witness: but it appears to us to be the freedom of the bar-room, and not that freedom to which a Bar which has a proper respect for itself should aspire. It may, too, be interesting as a sort of fake show for a judge to sit on a pivot-chair, so that he can keep himself swinging in a sort of semi-circle, now looking out of the window, and occasionally at the counsel addressing him. In Ontario such behaviour would not be indulged in by any judge who had any respect for himself, and few counsel would regard it otherwise than as a piece of ill-bred impertinence if, unhappily, any judge should so act. But in