

EDITORIAL NOTES—INTEREST UNDER THE STATUTE.

We expressed the belief last month that the Senate would not follow the vote of the House of Commons as to the Insolvent law. That belief has been verified. Whilst by no means of the opinion that an Insolvent law such as ours is an unmixed good, we think the Senate acted wisely at the present time in applying the "brakes" which the constitution gives them. Unless, however, some much more perfect law is prepared before next Session, the great army of official assignees will be as the locusts in the Red Sea, and their loss will be about as much regretted.

Mrs. Bradwell, of the *Chicago Legal News*, is very cheerful over the successful passage of the Act allowing women to be admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States. She contests the proposition that it will be necessary to have a nursery attached to the Court-room, and addressing herself to her noble brothers-in-law, promises on behalf of professional womankind that they will be very respectful, and prays in technical language "don't *man-dam-us* before we have had a hearing." Bella Lockwood is the first female name placed on the roll of Attorneys of the Supreme Court.

Sir James Hannen, President of the Divorce Court, in England, who has frequently remarked upon the advance of public morals in the wrong direction, has lately added to this branch of social literature by his judicial utterance in *Marshall v. Marshall*, 27 W. R. 400. He there gives his experience as follows:—"I must further observe that so far suits for the restitution of conjugal rights, from being, in truth and in fact, what theoretically they purport to be—proceedings for the purpose of insisting on the fulfilment of the obligation of married persons to live

together—that I have never known an instance in which it has appeared that the suit was instituted for any other purpose than to enforce a money demand."

We call the attention of our readers to the full report, contained in this number, in the case of *McPhatter v. Blue*.

This was a matter which arose in Chancery Chambers, and related to the lien of solicitors on moneys recovered in a suit through their instrumentality. It shows the liability which a solicitor incurs who deals,—even though *bonâ fide*,—with a fund in Court, without having first duly given notice to the solicitor through whom the fund was recovered. The case was decided in the early part of 1876, but has never been officially reported. As, however, it has been several times referred to, it is hoped that this report may be of some service to practitioners. It has been compiled from the papers used on the application, and revised by some of the counsel who argued the matter.

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It is desirable that there should be uniformity of decision in all the courts in regard to the allowance of interest, and after some conflicting opinions this seemed to be attained. Both courts of law and equity start from the same point. Lord Thurlow's language in *Boddam v. Riley*, 1 Bro. C. C. 239, explains this: "I take it, nothing but what arises from a contract, agreement or demand of a debt, can give rise to a demand of interest; and this Court in these cases follows a court of law." By statute, the provision in this Province is that the jury may allow interest upon any debt or sum certain, payable by virtue of a written instrument at a certain time, from the time when the claim became payable; and if