

## GENERAL NOTES.

THE CASE OF MISS FLAGLER.—It will be remembered about a year ago Miss Flagler, the daughter of a general in the army, shot and killed a colored boy, who was on a fruit tree in her father's garden, in the act of stealing fruit. Miss Flagler was indicted for something, we have forgotten what: but she never would have been brought to trial at all if the colored people of Washington had not, by their protests, stirred the authorities into some pretended activity. Miss Flagler was finally allowed to plead guilty to "involuntary manslaughter," and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$500, which her father, no doubt, could easily pay, and to be imprisoned in the jail for *three hours*. She was driven to and from the jail in her father's private carriage, and is reported to have sat in the matron's room in the jail in pleasant company during the one hundred and eighty minutes of her pretended imprisonment. The outcome of this case has been justly characterized by the respectable portion of the lay press as a scandal upon the administration of justice, and as a confirmation of the wide-spread belief that there is one kind of justice for the rich and another for the poor. No one can possibly doubt that if a negro woman had discovered a white boy perched on a limb of one of her apple trees, stealing apples, and had thereupon lifted up a gun and shot him, the negro woman would have suffered the full penalty of the law. The outcome of the case is a shame—a burning shame—and the judge who entertained the plea of guilty of involuntary manslaughter ought to regret it as long as he lives.—*American Law Review*.

PROXIMATE CAUSE OF INJURY.—Here is a curious case reported from Texas. "A passenger, slightly intoxicated, enters the smoking car of a railroad train, and places his baggage, which is in the form of an old tow-sack filled with coffee-grinders, scrap iron, and a jug of alcohol, on the seat beside him, projecting slightly into the aisle. The motion of the train causes the sack to tumble out into the aisle of the car, breaking the jug, and spilling the alcohol on the floor. As this flows along the aisle, another passenger, who is just lighting a cigar, throws a match in the way, and the alcohol burns up to the ceiling of the car; a third passenger, with silk stockings and celluloid cuffs, has his feet, hands, and eyebrows seriously scorched, and sues the railway company for damages. *Held*: that the contents of the sack being unknown to the conductor and the passenger's conduct not sufficiently boisterous to warrant his ejection, it was not actionable negligence *unless* it was a proximate cause of the injury."