

USE AND ABUSE OF LEGAL HOLIDAYS.

"Farewell Toronto, of great glory,
Of valour, too, in modern story;
Farewell to Courts, to Lawyers' Hall,
The justice seats, both great and small;
Farewell attorneys, special pleaders,
Equity draftsmen and their readers.
Canadian laws and suits, to song
Of future bard henceforth belong."

SELECTIONS.

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HOLIDAYS.

On Thursday last the Long Vacation came to an end, and from all quarters of the globe counsel and solicitors have returned, or are returning, to the metropolis. Next Saturday the Lord Chancellor will receive Her Majesty's Judges in the customary manner, the Courts of Law will reopen, and practitioners will be as busy as the depressed condition of commerce, manufactures, and agriculture will permit.

Before the lawyers settle down to business, there will be much shaking of hands, and many friendly inquiries. Foremost among the topics of interest will be how our friends have spent the Vacation, and how they have enjoyed themselves. Innumerable are the recreations by which barristers and solicitors seek to regain health and strength after the labours of a legal year; and, for the first few days, there are pleasant comparisons of happy Vacation days. "Have you had good sport on the moors and in the turnips?" for this year there have really been turnips. "Have you been to the Paris Exhibition?" The rival attractions of foreign travel, Alpine climbing, shooting, country visits, seaside sojourn, Doncaster and Newmarket races, are discussed with as much animation as is possible when the coming toil of ten months is in prospect. Since the primitive days when Parliament was prorogued and the Courts adjourned in order that the harvest of England might be gathered, the way to spend the Long Vacation has been a fruitful theme of debate.

Indeed this is a subject of more real importance than would at first sight appear; and just as the professional classes increase in this country, and the things

that can be done multiply, so does the task of discovering how to spend a holiday become more worthy of attention. It is astonishing what a muddle some people make of their leisure time. Bit by bit as the cares of life, the love of money, devotion to business, and bodily infirmity creep on them, away goes even the desire of recreation. Multitudes of men, if lifted in a moment above the necessity of professional labour, would be miserable from the want of something to do, simply because they have made no effort either to retain the skill for manly exercises of which in their youth they were justly proud, or to acquire new modes of healthy recreation for body and mind. They cannot ride, or shoot, or play any game demanding physical exertion; they hate to travel, the country is to them inexpressibly dull, the seaside is vulgar and monotonous. So they reluctantly assent to a fortnight or three weeks' away from town to please their wives; and with that their Vacation begins and ends.

Now, of late years, persons of this class—and we speak not of Englishmen only—have hit upon an idea. They have got up conferences and congresses, and have sought to banish *ennui* by the pursuit of scientific, artistic, and philanthropical objects. This Vacation has been remarkable for meetings of this kind. There has been a Congress of Orientalists at Florence; of German Naturalists at Cassel; an International Prison Congress at Stockholm; a Scandinavian Jurists Congress at Christiania; a Conference on International Law at Frankfurt; a meeting of the Institut de Droit International at Paris; and a sitting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce at Sheffield. Last, but not least, there began on Wednesday, at Cheltenham the annual meeting of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science, not the least important section of which is the Society for Promoting the Amendment of the Law. The Codification of the Criminal Law, the Reform of Real Property Law, Summary Jurisdiction of Justices, Prison Discipline—these are among the subjects to which men who have their bread to earn devote themselves in their hour of leisure, from love