

NOTES ON TIME—A SUMMONS FROM PARNASSUS.

which issue has been joined: *Wilson v. Black*, 6 Prac. R. 130.

A contract to do a thing "directly" does not imply that it is to be done *instantly*, but there must be no delay in the performance: *Duncan v. Topham*, 8 C B. 225.

A SUMMONS FROM PARNASSUS.

An occasional correspondent, whose feelings of delight at the arrival of the long vacation have got the better of him, sends us the following paraphrase in rhyme of an "original writ." It does him credit, and is, we think, quite as good as his Indenture done into verse, published by us some time since:

"To JOHN SMITH,

His servants and agents, VICTORIA
Sends greeting: we trust that this process won't bore you.

In our Court of Chicanery one Brown doth make

A complaint—*i. e.* *Chancery*, (printer's mistake)—
However, the said Brown now lately hath filed
A Bill of Complaint here, wherein are compiled
An account of your doings, and saith he is
grieved

Thereat; and he prays that he may be relieved,
As against the aforementioned acts of iniquity,
Because they're repugnant to Conscience and
Equity.

Now, as it is shown that the truth is the same as is
Fully related by him in the premises,
We've caused this to issue, upon due enquiry
Secundum discretionem boni viri.

And if you should ask us, *Vir bonus est quis?*
Of your grace and mere motion we answer you
this,

(To which we may add, you by no means deserve
it):—

Qui patrum consulta, qui juraque servat.

Considering, therefore, that Brown hath related
The truth, touching what in his bill hath been
stated;

We strictly enjoin upon you to refrain
From the acts we referred to before, under pain
Of incurring our heavy displeasure; and not

Only that, but we'll make it exceedingly hot
For you, the aforesaid iniquitous cove,
For we'll order our Sheriff to nab you, by Jove! *
To conduct you to where we give plain lodging
gratis,

And watch you with care, till you cry out *jam satis!*

There we'll cause you to live like a very recluse,
While we, meanwhile, appropriate to our own
use

Your lands that you bought with your hardly
earned pelf,

Your carriage and horses, blue china and delf,
Your ormolu clocks, your champagnes and hocks,
Your plate that you keep under two or three
locks,

And your profits from money invested in stocks;
Your carpets, and zooks; your piano and books,
Your pictures suspended from silver-gilt hooks,
Your statuettes standing in nice little nooks,
And your mirrors, in which your wife constantly
looks;

Your treasures of art, that are dear to your
heart,

With which you declare that you never will
part.

And we'll do everything we can think of that
shocks you,

While Brown looks on coolly, and laughs at and
mocks you;

And when we've disposed of your jewels and
trinkets,

We've no hesitation in saying you'll think it's

As well to obey our decrees and commands,

And thus save your goods, and your chattels and
lands.

Now, to show you that this is not all empty
brag,

As witness, our Chancellor Godfrey de Spragge,
Who gauges the rights of each case, as it's put,

By the breadth of his soul, and the length of his
foot.

Now glance at the margin—pray look at that
seal,

And the stamp, duly cancelled—more proof that
you'll feel

Our vengeance, worked out without any com-
punction,

If you do not choose to obey this injunction.

But if you do Smith, old man, why we'll 'cry
quits.'

A. HOLMESTED,

The Clerk of our Records and Writs."

*The 37 Vict. cap. 37, entitled "An act for the suppression of voluntary and extra-judicial oaths," does not apply. Besides being only *somewhat* judicial, this oath was involuntary.