

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Dominion of Canada. As it bears on the opening of Parliament ceremonial by the Queen, and embodies some views of Parliament by the great novelist, it may both interest and amuse :—

“TAVISTOCK HOUSE, Jan. 25, 1854.

“MY DEAR SIR,—I assure you that we are all extremely sensible of your kind remembrance and much indebted to you for your invitation ; but though reasonably loyal, we do not much care for such sights, and consequently feel that you ought to bestow the places you so obligingly offer us on some more deserving objects. The last ceremony of that kind I ever saw was the Queen's coronation, and I thought it looked poor in comparison with my usual country walk. As to Parliament, it does so little and talks so much, that the most interesting ceremony I know of, in connection with it, was performed (with very little state indeed) by one man, who just cleared it out, locked up the place, and put the keys in his pocket.

“Very faithfully yours,

“CHARLES DICKENS.

“Robert Rawlinson, Esq.”

A Bill has lately been introduced into the English Parliament by the Lord Chancellor Cairns, providing for the scale of conveyancing charges to solicitors. It is left to the judge to make orders for regulating the remuneration by a rate of commission or percentage, having regard to all or any of six considerations : 1. The position of the party for whom the solicitor is concerned—whether as vendor or purchaser, lessor or lessee, &c. 2. The place, district, and circumstances at or in which the business, or part thereof is transacted. 3. The amount of the capital money, or of the rent to which the business relates. 4. The skill, labour, and responsibility involved therein on the part of the solicitor. 5. The number and importance of the documents prepared or perused, without regard to length ; and,

6, the average or ordinary remuneration obtained by solicitors in like business at the passing of the Act. These considerations seem to exhaust all matters material to be known and weighed in order to formulate a scale of conveyancing charges, the necessity for which is just as great here as in England. There is, perhaps, one other local consideration, which so long as the Attorney-General remains supine, ought to be regarded in Ontario—that is the minimum for which the home-bred and self-taught conveyancer will undertake the like work, and the chances there are of the instrument framed by him effectuating the intention of the parties.

Mr. Morley's interesting life of Edmund Burke, in the “English Men of Letters,” Series, has probably caused many to turn with fresh interest to the remains of that high-minded orator, philosopher, and statesman. Although Burke soon himself forsook the study of law for the more congenial sphere of political life, he has left evidence in one place, at least, of the admiration with which he regarded it. In his speech on American taxation occurs a passage, which in able hands might well be expanded into an instructive and interesting essay. Speaking of Mr. Grenville, he says :

“He was bred in a profession. He was bred to the law, which is, in my opinion, one of the first and noblest of human sciences ; a science which does more to quicken and invigorate the understanding, than all the other kinds of learning put together ; but it is not apt, except in persons very happily born, to open and to liberalize the mind exactly in the same proportion.”

It may easily be conceded that the study and practice of law, if pursued exclusively, would have a narrowing effect on the mind, tend to contract the sympathies, and encourage over-much that