

Conclusion.—In the words of the Arabic proverb, "Everything crooked-necked is not a camel;" so before either attacking, or relying upon, a written document, it would be well to remember that:

1. Any name or symbol, made in any manner with any instrument (and sometimes even where not made by the supposed maker at all) may constitute a valid signature.

2. If the execution of a writing be admitted, the falsity of its assigned date will not affect its validity; but if the execution be denied, the false dating will probably be fatal to it.

Express statutory provisions may of course modify these broad and very general rules, which may soon come to have a special significance, in view of the fact that, right after the first heavy loss of American lives in the pending war, a mysterious advertisement for "old portraits" appeared prominently in the daily press—something scarcely worth purchasing except to bolster up some fraudulent scheme.

THE PREVENTION OF WAR.

There is so much good sense in a short article on this subject in the February issue of the *Law Notes* (Northport, New York), that we publish it in full, taking exception, however, to the last sentence:—

"There are some optimists who seem to believe that with the passing of autocracy the danger of war is forever averted; that self-governing peoples will never enter on armed conflict. The idea that peoples are unwillingly hurled into war by autocratic monarchs is the veriest nonsense. Sometimes they enter into an aggressive war willingly, as did the people of Germany, who would doubtless in July, 1914, have voted with practical unanimity for war. Sometimes they are drawn into war by the irresistible logic of events. That was the case in 1861, when no responsible man, north or south, wanted war, and yet war became inevitable because there was an issue which had to be decided and no other method of decision was open. Both sides had the fullest measure of self-government, both sides wanted a peaceful solution, provided only