CHANGE OF NAME.

We suppose there is no very cogent reason why a person about to begin life anew in a foreign country should not indulge in the luxury of a new name. In some cases where the patronymic is decidedly unpleasant, a change is quite justifiable. Some of the expatriated, it seems, are content to translate their names. *La Minerve* says :—

"Il y a encore des Canadiens émigrés qui américanisent leurs noms. Un journal des Etats-Unis dénonce en particulier un nommé Toussaint Labonté, qui a commencé récemment à se faire appeler *All Saints Goodone*. Etait-ce vraiment la peine de se mettre en frais de traduction pour arriver à un pareil résultat ?"

We fail to see why M. Toussaint Labonté should be found fault with. With true French politeness he has sought to make things pleasant for his new friends. He has only been unfortunate in his translation. "Goodman" and "Goodbody" are common enough English names, and either of them would have answered his purpose. The "Toussaint" is more difficult to render into vulgar English. If he has settled in New England, "Perfect Goodman" might do; or if he had had recourse to an Eastern Townships name, he might have called himself "Noble Goodman;" or he might have borrowed from old English literature and dubbed himself "Allworthy Goodman;" or, lastly, if of æsthetic tastes, he might have become "Too, too Goodman."

SHAM SUITS.

The English Courts are not disposed to encourage suits which are brought by arrangement of the parties, or where it appears that it is the plaintiff's interest not to succeed. The *Pall Mall Gazette* says :—"Mr. Bradlaugh's latest attempt to invoke the intervention of the Law Courts on behalf of the law which is violated in his exclusion from the House of Commons has resulted in failure. One of Mr. Bradlaugh's friends brought an action to recover the penalty of £500 incurred by the junior member for Northampton when he sat and voted without taking the oath. It was admitted that the action was brought merely to raise the point of law. The plaintiff's counsel said he would be very glad to be defeated, and Mr. Justice Mathew ruled that, as the Court had no security that the real facts would be brought before it, he must discharge the jury and decline to hear the case. The jury was discharged accordingly, and Mr. Bradlaugh's last effort to secure justice from the courts having been defeated, he will now, as he has repeatedly declared, have recourse to other expedients. What these other expedients may be is not known, but they are hardly likely to conduce to the serenity and composure of the House of Commons."

HYPOTHEC ON IMMOVEABLE BEQUEATHED.

In the case of *Pennison & Pennison*, before the Court of Queen's Bench at Quebec, the Chief Justice, during the term of December instant, said that the Court reserved judgment as it involved the question decided in the case of *Harrington & Corse* (5 Legal News, p. 148), now pending before the Supreme Court. The question is the effect of the alteration of the old law by Article 889, C.C.

CONTRIBUTORY NEGLIGENCE.

Truth is responsible for this report, which affords the latest illustration of the English doctrine of contributory negligence:—

A pawnbroker was sued for the value of two coats, which the plaintiff had pawned, and which had been injured by mice eating away the pockets. It having been proved that crumbs had been left in the pockets, it was held by the County Court Judge before whom the case came, that the mice had been attracted by them, and that the owner had been guilty of "contributory negligence": so the pawnbroker triumphed.

A PROTHONOTARY'S GOLDEN CELEBRATION.

John Sleep Honey, Prothonotary of the Superior Court in the district of Montreal, celebrated on the 1st instant, the fiftieth anniversary of his connection with the Prothonotary's office. Few would suppose that this worthy gentleman had been in harness so long, more especially as it would be utterly wrong to imagine that he had been altogether *asleep* during the half century which has rolled away, leaving so light an impress upon the form and features