

on everything that takes place. So long as matters of public concern only are dealt with, and the individual right to privacy concerning matters in which the public is not concerned is respected, we see no objection to this bringing forth everything into the full light of day. The old struggle to muzzle the press is practically over, but parties interested in keeping matters quiet are ever ready to put a forced construction on an Act of Parliament which aims at the wise object of allowing the fullest liberty without undue license.

The answer, then, which is to be given to the query with which we head these remarks is—Yes; if the slander has been uttered at a public meeting, the matter is of public concern, the publication is for the public benefit, and the report is fair and accurate.—*Law Notes.*

THE DUTIES OF COMMISSIONERS TO ADMINISTER OATHS.—The numerous and important body of commissioners to administer oaths will naturally turn to the charter to which they owe their existence in their surprise at the remarks made by Mr. Justice Kay last week. They will find in the Act 16 & 17 Vict., c. 78, s. 2, "that it shall be lawful for the Lord Chancellor, from time to time, to appoint any persons practising as solicitors within ten miles from Lincoln's-Inn Hall at their respective places of business, to administer oaths and take declarations, affirmations, and attestations of honour in Chancery, and to possess all such other powers and discharge all such other duties as such persons masters extraordinary in Chancery' previously did; and such persons shall be styled 'London Commissioners to administer oaths in Chancery;' and they shall be entitled to charge and take a fee of one shilling and sixpence for every oath administered by them, and for every declaration, affirmation, or attestation of honour taken by them, subject to any order of the Lord Chancellor varying or amending the same." Then, under s. 84 of the Judicature Act, 1873 (36 & 37 Vict., c. 66) all commissioners to take oaths or affidavits in the Supreme Court are appointed by the Lord Chancellor. Appointments are open to all practising solicitors on formal application to the Chancellor, accompanied by certificates; the condition being that the applicant shall have taken out certificates for the six consecutive years immediately preceding the application. There are also one or two of the Rules of the Supreme Court which have a bearing upon the matter. First, by Order XXXVIII., r. 5: Every commissioner to administer oaths is called upon to express the time when and the place where he takes any affidavit, or the acknowledgment of any deed, or recognisance; otherwise the same shall not be held authentic, nor be admitted to be filed or enrolled without the leave of the Court or a Judge; and every commissioner is bound to express the time and the place where he does any other act incident to his office. Secondly, by Rule 13 of the same Order: "Where an affidavit is sworn by any person who appears to the officer taking the affidavit to be illiterate or blind, the officer shall certify in the jurat that the affidavit was read in his presence to the deponent, that the deponent seemed perfectly to understand it, and that the deponent made his signature in the presence of the