

EDITORIAL ITEMS.

ever held that the property of the debtor having been attached and sold under the Absconding Debtors Act before the debtor was moved into compulsory liquidation, the plaintiff was entitled to the proceeds of the sale in preference to the assignee in insolvency. The name of the case is *Neal et al. v. Smith*.

Slater v. Pinder L. R. 7 Ex. 95, and *Ex parte Roche* L.R. 6 Ch. ap. 795 were cited on the argument, to show that under the Act of 1869 the words "creditor holding a security" were construed to extend to an attaching or execution creditor, who had no notice of the act of bankruptcy, and also to show that the rights and liens given by the Absconding Debtors Act could only be taken away by express enactment.

The *Chicago Law Institute* is agitating for a change in the system of law reporting in the State of Illinois. The complaints are that the reports of the Supreme Court are excessive in price, deficient in quantity and dilatory in appearance. A computation is made of the reporter's profits, and it foots up at \$15,185.25 per year—which is nearly four times the salary of a Supreme Court Judge! They suggest, according to the plan long in force in this Province, that the reporter, who is a public officer of the State, should be compensated by salary, instead of being allowed profits. The report of the Committee thus proceeds:

"The public requirement is to have the most law in the fewest books. The reporter's interest is, the least matter in the most books. The true canon of law reporting has been pronounced to be, to convey the fullest information in the least space. Establish the reporter's pay in a stipend, and the canon may be observed; but allow him the privilege of profit from his copyrights, and it becomes improbable. An eminent late Lord Chancellor (Lord Cranworth, in *Dudgeon v. Patrick*, 1 Macq. H. Lds. 724) has said,

'We are now overwhelmed with law reports, and I think every reporter deserves well of his country who *condenses*.' Compression, however, is a merit not confidently to be looked for in a reporter whose opportunities tend and tempt to make him forgetful of his country, and to deserve well of himself, by the art of amplying. A chief vice of the reporter is, that that art has been too freely applied in producing the reports. Bookmaking designs and devices run through the whole series. All the contrivances of spacing, paragraphing, blanks, verbose and needless syllabuses and prolix indexing are systematically and literally used, so that the reporter has, in more than the sense of the words of the statute, given us the cases '*drawn out at length*.'"

Sir George Honyman, Q. C., has been appointed to the seat in the English Court of Common Pleas rendered vacant by the resignation of Mr. Justice Byles. The leading organs of professional opinion in England, the *Solicitors' Journal*, the *Law Times*, and the *Law Journal*, speak of the appointment in the highest terms.

The *Solicitors' Journal* says:—

Sir George is well known as one of the soundest and most accomplished of mercantile lawyers, and his appointment will add great strength to the Court of Common Pleas, whose decisions during the Presidency of the late Chief Justice Sir William Erle, supported as he was by one of the strongest puisne benchers ever known, enjoyed the highest reputation.

The *Law Times* is equally commendatory:—

It was generally anticipated that Sir George Honyman, Q. C., would have been promoted to the vacancy in the Court of Exchequer which was filled by the elevation of the present Baron Pollock. We named him for that position; but in the exercise of a wise discretion the Lord Chancellor reserved him for the expected vacancy in the Court of Common Pleas. To that court he has now been raised, and a better appointment, or one which more thoroughly receives the approbation of the Profession, could not have been made. For many years Sir George Honyman has enjoyed the reputation of being one of the ablest lawyers of his time, and when Lord Chief Justice Bovill and Mr. Justice Lush were raised to the Bench he succeeded to the lead