

We have much pleasure in publishing in another place a letter from the Police Magistrate of the city of Toronto in answer to our remarks on page 517 ante. The personal matters referred to in the discussion are of no special interest. If we have, as we are told, made some mistakes in unimportant matters, we are glad to be corrected. Many of our readers know the facts and can be the judges. Our object was to repudiate as most unfair and injurious wholesale charges of wrongdoing against the profession. We now understand, from the letter, that the strictures we referred to were not meant to convey the meaning that we, with other members of the profession, took from them.

Preliminaries having been thus disposed of entirely to his satisfaction the gallant Colonel proceeds to draw a vivid picture, (with poetic licenses) of the long drawn out agonies of a law suit, from the time when the reckless, not to say wicked, lawyer sets the machinery of the Courts in motion until the time when the paupered client dies of a broken heart. He also very properly gives his views as to the best way of reforming the abuses in the administration of justice which lead to such unhappy results, and speaks of two possibilities in that connection. One is, that the State should look after all litigation, hiring lawyers at fixed salaries to assist the judges. As an alternative proposition, he throws out a hint as to the propriety of deciding disputes by the tossing of a copper. The first suggestion is not original, and reads like a chapter intended for a revised edition of Bellamy's "Looking backward." The idea, however, of organizing a "Copper-tossing Bureau" is quite novel, and worthy of consideration as being both simple and economical. It would, moreover, appeal to the gambling spirit of the age. We should be glad if our correspondent would elaborate this idea a little. Parliament will soon meet, and the matter might be introduced. It would at least produce a discussion quite as interesting and useful as many of those which now occupy the time of our law-makers.

The *Albany Law Journal* notes a recent decision of the Supreme Court of Minnesota in *Cunningham v. Cunningham*, as to the meaning of the words "in the presence of the testator" in connection with the execution of a will. It appears after the paper had been signed it was taken into an adjoining room where the witnesses affixed their signatures at a table about ten feet from the testator.