

LINCOLNS INN.

As a member of this Inn—although not a “parchmenter”—the writer knows rather more about it. It is situated on the north side of the Law Courts and to the east of Lincolns Inn Fields—a large open space—formerly the property of the Inn which was sold to the London County Council for the sum of £12,000. The Fields are now a public recreation ground. It is not to be supposed that all the numerous sets of chambers which are included in Lincolns Inn are the property of the Benchers. The freehold of some of them is in other people. *Mirabile dictu*, in this seminary of real property lawyers, there are some chambers in freehold tenure on the second or third floor of the buildings. Nice legal questions may one day arise when the buildings fall down, in the process of decay, as to the rights of the owners of the different floors.

Possibly the most interesting edifice in the Inn is the Old Hall which, until the building of the Royal Courts of Justice, was used as a Court of Equity. Those who have read “Bleak House” will remember that it was in this Hall that the great case of *Jarndyce v. Jarndyce* was fought at such interminable length. Now-a-days it is used for the most part as a lecture room. It was last used as a Court some years ago, when an inquiry was held into the sanity of a certain nobleman.

THE LAWYERS OF LINCOLNS INN.

Most of the members of this ancient foundation and practically all those who have chambers within its precincts, are Chancery men. The fusion of law and equity had never brought into being any large number of men who practice both in the King's Bench and Chancery Divisions. A mere common lawyer is not at home in a Court of Chancery: he does not know the practice. An equity draftsman or conveyancer has no experience of juries and will probably never have been in a criminal court in his life. It has been said that the Law is a jealous mistress. Her sister, Equity, has the same proud characteristic.

THE DINNERS IN HALL.

During a certain part of each of the legal terms there are dinners in the hall. The dinner hour which for many years was