
Legal Scrap Book.

STEALING ELECTRICITY.

In the St. Louis (Mo.) criminal court, a short time ago, a hardware dealer was charged with stealing electricity by tapping an electric light wire, and thus securing free illumination. The judge who tried the case held that the offence was not larceny, and the Grand Jury refused to call it fraud, and the accused was therefore discharged. The *Central Law Journal* considers the view of the court manifestly wrong, since gas has already been held to be the subject of larceny. There certainly does not seem any possible distinction between a theft of gas and a theft of electricity.

MARRIAGE BY WIRE.

Strange things are done out West, and if report can be believed a marriage ceremony was recently performed by the chaplain of a United States military post—Fort Apache—who was 275 miles distant from Fort Bowie, where the contracting couple were. The telegraph operator at the latter place arranged the affair and perhaps gave the bride away, while the witnesses were two other operators distant respectively 225 and 300 miles. All the necessary questions were asked and answered over the wire. The question of where the marriage took place might be difficult of answer, since, by the decision in *Beamish v. Beamish*, 3 F.L.C. 274, the marriage is completed "after affiance and troth plighted"; this took place at Fort Bowie. Blunt's "Church Law" (2nd ed. rev., p. 154), however, considers that the declaration of the priest completes the ceremony; this was made at Fort Apache.

ONTARIO'S OLDEST BARRISTER.

There died in the month of August last, at the ripe age of ninety years, and at his old home, the seat of the first Parliament of Upper Canada, the anniversary of which we have just been commemorating, William B. Winterbottom, who was born on the 26th of September, 1802. Educated in his native town of Niagara, he witnessed during this period the review of the troops by General Sir Isaac Brock immediately prior to their departure for Queenston, whence many besides their gallant commander never returned. He was also a spectator of the burning of his birthplace, and an observer of the ill effects resulting from it. A law student in the office, and subsequently a partner of the late Alexander Stewart, Mr. Winterbottom was admitted as an attorney in 1827, and was called to the Bar in Trinity Term, 1830. In 1845 he was appointed Clerk of the First Division Court of the County of Lincoln, which position he held for over thirty years, retiring to his well-earned rest the oldest barrister in the Province.

MARRIAGE WITH DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

The time has again come round for the English journals, legal and lay, to lead out their pet hobby horse, referred to in "Iolanthe" as "that annual blister, marriage with a deceased wife's sister." The *Law Journal* thinks that the