

ble, as they are in the courts of the Union. We do not know where our St. Louis contemporary could have picked up such a wonderful account of us, but we suspect that the writer, if he ever visited Canada, must have fallen into the hands of a Canadian Mark Twain and been very badly stuffed.

JUDICIAL SYSTEMS OF ENGLAND AND THE UNITED STATES.

The speeches of Lord Coleridge since his arrival in America have presented little that arrests the attention, still less that merits reproduction. His Lordship is an easy, graceful speaker, and the observations which he has been forced to make on the several occasions, festive or otherwise, on which he has appeared before public assemblies in America as a distinguished guest, are quite in keeping with his reputation as a genial and accomplished man of society, but they are unmistakably common place. It is but fair to add that the Lord Chief Justice is one of the least pretentious of individuals, and that he frankly and modestly ascribes to the kindness and friendship of Mr. Gladstone rather than to his own merits the elevated position which he occupies. In fact, he quite underrates rather than over-estimates his own abilities. But while we have looked in vain for originality or brilliancy in his lordship's speeches, they are at least free from aught that could be regarded as offensive or undignified. The Chief Justice had to listen to a great deal of "tall talk", as, for example, at the formal reception by the N.Y. State Bar Association, Oct. 11, when Mr. Shepard began his introduction of the guest in these terms: "England and America are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Stars of the first magnitude in the legal heavens come into conjunction when to you, sir, as chief judge of five and a half millions of freemen, elected thereto according to the forms prescribed by our Constitution," &c &c. Mr. Shepard could not understand how ridiculously this stuff sounds in English ears; but his lordship was uniformly courteous and accepted with unflinching gravity and good humor all the prodigious compliments lavished upon him. On the occasion referred to, his lordship adverted at some length to the differences in the jud-

icial systems of England and the United States. The following extracts from his speech, which was one of the most elaborate which he has made in America, are of interest:—

"It seems to me that there are one or two other differences, which upon clear, good and entirely uncontradicted evidence, exist between our system and yours. I am told with one voice that our courts in England go faster than your courts in America, and I cannot say with what pleasure an old, narrow-minded insular received the intelligence that in anything—even in a lawsuit—the old country went faster than the new. I am told also—and it seems to be the fact—that the judges in England take the liberty of assuming more the direction of affairs in cases which are tried before them, whether with or without a jury, than the practice of some of your States and the actual statutes in others permit to the judges in this country. It is not for me to express an opinion as to whether you are right or wrong. From our point of view, and in our circumstances, I cannot help thinking we are right; but nevertheless, I am not so presumptuous as to deny that it is very likely that from your point of view, and in your very different circumstances, you may be right, too, because, where the circumstances differ, the conclusions will naturally not be the same. One thing seems to me clear—that in England, with our fewer judges, we dispose, and dispose without arrears, of a very sufficient and satisfactory number of cases; and in this country upon the whole, in many States, and certainly, as I understand, in the courts of the Union, there is a very considerable arrear at the present time.

"You are probably aware that we in England have been engaged for the last ten years, beginning in 1873, when, as attorney-general, I was responsible for passing the Judicature Act through the House of Commons, in endeavoring to cheapen, and simplify and expedite our procedure upon the lines of those salutary statutes which the wisdom of Parliament enacted about thirty years ago (in 1852-54).

"At this moment, a committee, of which I have the honor to be chairman, having reported in favor of certain amendments, the judges have made large alterations in our rules of procedure, which I hope may be beneficial, but which I am not wise enough to undertake to