

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM.

naturally be kept on the adjoining land, would be dangerous and likely to produce injury. The judge held that the plaintiff is entitled to recover, although he had bailed his colt to the adjoining owner to be kept at pasturage, and although that owner knew of the existence of this wire fence.

If, however, the owner of the adjoining pasture in which the colt was domiciled had "joined fences," as they say in the West, with the owner of the barbed wire fence, or, in other words, if the wire fence was by agreement, express or implied, a partition fence, the ruling of the court could hardly be sustained, for the catastrophe was as much the fault of the owner of the colt, or his agent and bailee, as of the defendant himself. We will look with much interest for the full report of the case. The newspaper account of it concludes as follows:—

The case will doubtless be appealed, as the barbed wire manufacturers cannot afford to let such an injurious decision stand uncontested, if there is any hope of having it reversed. The plea will doubtless be set up that the barbed wire, from its cheapness, convenience and practicability is a necessity; that it is, with few exceptions, harmless, and that in this case nothing but the total depravity was at fault for the injury. The case will be watched with no little interest, and especially at the West, where barbed wire is used almost exclusively for fencing.—*Central Law Journal*.

AN OCULIST'S TEST.—In a large factory in which were employed several hundred persons, one of the workmen, in wielding his hammer carelessly allowed it to slip from his hand. It flew half way across the room, and struck a fellow-workman in the left eye. The man averred that his eye was blinded by the blow, although a careful examination failed to reveal any injury, there being not a scratch visible. He brought a suit for compensation for the loss of half of his eyesight, and refused all offers of compromise. The day of the trial arrived, and in open court an eminent oculist retained by the defence examined the alleged injured member, and gave it as his opinion that it was as good as the right eye. Upon the plaintiff's loud protest of his inability to see with his left eye, the oculist proved him a perjurer, and satisfied the court and jury of the falsity of his claim. And how do you suppose he did it? Why, simply by knowing that the colours green and red combined make black. He procured a black card on which a few words were written with green ink. Then the plaintiff was ordered to put on a pair of spectacles with two different glasses, the one for the right eye being red, and the one for the left eye consisting of ordinary glass. Then the card was handed him, and he was ordered to read the writing on it. This he did without hesitation, and the cheat was at once exposed. The sound right eye, fitted with the red glass, was unable to distinguish the green writing on the black surface

of the card, while the left eye, which he pretended was sightless, was the one with which the reading had to be done.—*Central Law Journal*.

A SUBSCRIBER sends us a paper containing some details of a partition suit of elephantine proportions which has just been wound up in the county of Elgin. It appears that one William Boyce, who owned several hundred acres of land in the township of Bayham, died in November, 1878, leaving no children, consequently his real estate descended to his lawful heirs. He had in his lifetime six brothers and one sister, all of whom had predeceased him, leaving heirs and heiresses extending down to the fifth and sixth generations. The plaintiff was the only heir in the county of Elgin, and he could not give any definite information, either as to the names or residences of the remaining heirs, and it fell to the lot of his solicitors to obtain the necessary information, that a petition for partition of the real estate might be filed in the County Court of the county of Elgin. A correspondence with the heirs who were known was commenced, and link by link the line of heirship was unravelled, until about 130 heirs and persons interested in the real estate were discovered. Of this large number only twelve were found in Ontario, sixty being in New York State, two in Massachusetts, three in Connecticut, three in Dakota, ten in Montana, one in Michigan, fifteen in Pennsylvania, and the remainder were scattered throughout Wisconsin, Ohio, and Minnesota. Fifteen infants appeared as defendants, the youngest of whom was only ten months old, and its share, amounting to fifty cents, will remain in Court until it attains the age of twenty-one years. Two claimants were women who had been divorced from their husbands, and several were spinsters, with ages ranging anywhere between forty and seventy years. The largest share of the estate to which any one heir is entitled is a 147th, and the smallest is a 1178th. Three heirs each receive the last mentioned share, while ten claimants rejoice in a 560th share each. Six of the heirs have died since the suit was commenced. One fell in the fire and was burned to death, and another committed suicide. In order to completely establish the heirship of many of the claimants, monuments, tombstones, and slabs had to be carefully inspected. Many quaint epitaphs were discovered, especially in the old cemeteries near the Catskill Mountains.