

will be very inconvenient for the farming community who compose the majority of the suitors, witnesses and jurors to attend. These objections are so strong that it may be questioned whether it would not be better to dispense with it altogether, and have more time devoted to the Winter Assizes, and if necessary shove on Hilary Term a week. The force of this suggestion is increased when we refer to the provisions of sec. 54 of the Act, which provides that the Courts of Assize and Nisi Prius may be held separate and apart from the Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Gaol Delivery "either on the same or a different day." This is a very valuable provision and marks an era in the annals of judicial administration.

The old plan of mixing up civil and criminal business was well enough when the amount of business was limited, and is still necessary in outside counties; but the time has come for the sitting of distinct courts in the City of Toronto. We apprehend the plan adopted will be to have the sittings of the different courts at different times. It would be better not to have both going on at the same time, if it could be avoided, though this is the practice in England. The sitting of the criminal court might be for two weeks and then be closed. Then the civil court with a different panel of jurors would follow, and last for two or three weeks.

We think we may hazard another suggestion, and that is that the Grand Jury should be summoned a few days earlier than the Petit Jury for the criminal sittings, so as to get the work ready for the latter and thus effect a further saving of time.

THE REPORTERS AND TEXT WRITERS.

We continue this interesting collection, made for the *American Law Review* by some industrious student of the reports:

AMERICAN AUTHORITIES, ENGLISH ESTIMATE OF.

—"The American authorities are not binding on us indeed, but entitled to respect as the opinions of professors of English law, and entitled to respect according to the position of those professors and the reason they give for their opinions."—Bramwell, B., in *Osborn v. Gillett*, L. R. 8 Exch. 92.

BACON'S ABRIDGMENT. "A sufficient authority."—Blackburn, J., in *The Queen v. Ritson*, L. R. 1 C. C. 204.

See COMYNS'S DIGEST.

BENTHAM'S RATIONALE OF JUDICIAL EVIDENCE.

"The general principles of evidence are ably discussed, and often happily illustrated. That book should, however, be read with caution, as it embodies several essentially mistaken views, relative to the nature of judicial evidence, and which may be traced to overlooking the characteristic features whereby it is distinguished from other kinds of evidence."—Preface to *Best on Evidence*.

BEST ON EVIDENCE. "A very able and instructive treatise on the principles of evidence." Mr. Justice Willes in *Cooper v. Slade*, 6 House of Lords Cases, 772.

BLACKSTONE'S (SIR WILLIAM) REPORTS. "We must not always rely on the words of reports, though under great names: Mr. Justice Blackstone's reports are not very accurate."—Lord Mansfield in *Hassells v. Simpson*, 1 Dougl. 93, 4th ed.

BONNIER (E.). TRAITE THEORIQUE ET PRATIQUE DES PREUVES EN DROIT CIVIL ET EN DROIT CRIMINEL. 8vo. Paris, 1843. "An able work."—Preface to *Best on Evidence*. Although the third edition of this excellent book was published as recently as 1862, still it is now scarce. A faithful translation would be of the greatest possible value to the profession.

CALLIS'S READING UPON THE STATUTE OF SEWERS. "One of the best performances on that subject, and which has always been admitted as good authority."—Buller, J., in *Dore v. Gray*, 2 T. R. 365.

"The course of legal education, at the Inns of Court, consisted principally of readings and mootings, which have been described by Dag-