

## FLOTSAM AND JETSAM.

A LESSON IN TEMPERANCE.—Just as Justice Coldbath gave the fat man in a short coat thirty days for keeping a calf, three pigs, and a swarm of chickens in his front yard, a citizen in good clothes came into court. That is, his clothes were good, what was left of them. They were torn in a dozen varieties of rent, and dabbled with mud and blood. His broken head was bandaged, his hat was crushed, his face disfigured. O, but old Justice Coldbath was mad. "Well, sir," he snarled, before the citizen could speak, "it's easy enough to see what's the matter with you!" The citizen drew a sigh that sounded like a November breeze, and shook his head despondingly. "Same old story," said the justice: "same old thing. You look like a respectable man now, don't you! You are respectable when you are fixed up, I dare say. Merchant, aren't you. Yes, I knew it. Church member, more'n likely? Yes, I thought so. Stand well in society, and never slipped up before? Yes, sir, I know you. I can pick out your case every time it comes before me. Whiskey, eh? Liquor's the trouble. That's what plays the mischief with your respectable drinker, sir. Brings him to the gutter just as sure as it does the tramp. Now, sir, I'm going to reform you. I'm going to deal justly and harshly and mercifully with you for your own sake. I'll sock it to you, so that you'll never come here again. It's whiskey, you say?" "Yes, sir," said the citizen, feebly; "whiskey is the trouble, sir. But for whiskey I wouldn't appear in this disgraceful, forlorn, painful position. But for whiskey, I would be a sound, happy man, in good, clean clothes, and no headache. But for whiskey—" "That'll do," said the justice, "I know the whole story, and am glad you realize your situation so keenly. Maybe your contrition will take twenty days and \$10 off your sentence, and maybe it won't. Now, then, how much whiskey did you drink, and where did you get it?" "Me!" the citizen said, in a faint tone of infinite surprise, "I never touched a drop of intoxicating liquor in all my life. I am pastor of Asbury M. E. Church, and a drunken policeman assaulted me on the street half an hour ago and nearly clubbed me to pieces. I have just come to file information, and get a warrant for his arrest."

*Pump Court* gives the following:—

In a recent case arising out of a sporting partnership, tried before Sir James Bacon, the learned Vice-Chancellor referred to a case in which a highwayman resorted to law to enforce a claim against another knight of the road in respect of an alleged partnership in a "money or life" business. In the second volume of the English edition of "Pothier

on Obligation" (page 3) a case is mentioned of "Everet v. Williams," which is stated to have been a suit instituted by one highwayman against another for an account of their plunder. The bill stated that the plaintiff was skilled in dealing in several commodities, such as plate, rings, watches, etc.; that the defendant applied to him to become a partner, and that they entered into partnership; and it was agreed that they should equally provide all sorts of necessaries, such as horses, saddles, bridles, and equally for all expenses on the roads, and at inns, taverns, alehouses, markets and fairs. "And your orator and the said Joseph Williams proceeded jointly in the said business with good success on Hounslow Heath, where they dealt with a gentleman for a gold watch, and afterwards the said Joseph Williams told your orator that Finchley, in the county of Middlesex, was a good and convenient place to deal in, and that commodities were very plenty at Finchley aforesaid, and it would be almost all clear gain to them; that they went accordingly and dealt with several gentlemen for divers watches, rings, swords, canes, hats, cloaks, horses, bridles, saddles, and other things; that about a month afterwards the said Joseph Williams informed your orator that there was a gentleman at Blackheath who had a good horse, saddle, bridle, watch, sword, cane, and other things to dispose of, which, he believed, might be had for little or no money; that they accordingly went and met with the said gentleman, and after some small discourse they dealt for the said horse, etc.; that your orator and the said Joseph Williams continued their joint dealings together until Michaelmas, and dealt together in several places—viz., at Bagshot, Salisbury, Hampstead, and elsewhere, to the amount of £2,000 and upwards." The rest of the bill was in the ordinary form for a partnership account. On the 3rd of October, 1725, the bill was referred for scandal and impertinence; on the 29th of November, the report of the bill as scandalous and impertinent was confirmed, and an order was issued to attach the solicitors; on the 6th of December the solicitors were brought into court and fined £50 each, and it was ordered that Johathan Collins, Esq., the counsel who signed the bill, should pay the costs. It is interesting to know that the plaintiff was hanged at Tyburn in 1730, and the defendant at Maidstone in 1735. Wreathcock, one of the solicitors as aforesaid, was convicted of robbing Dr. Lancaster in 1735, but was reprieved and transported. Altogether, it was hardly more creditable to the ingenuity than to the honesty of our learned friend Mr. Collins, that he should have drafted a Statement of Claim, or Bill in Equity as it would be at that time, to settle the dispute between two thieves as to the sharing of the swag. The case deals a blow, too, to a very old proverb that there is "honour among thieves." Mr. Joseph Williams was evidently a gentleman unmindful of the etiquette of his profession, and did not deal fairly with his "pardner."

We think this rather hard on the learned and ingenious Mr. Collins. At least a number of his brethren of modern times should be similarly treated in connection with some of the "big steals" of these days which are quite as villainous as the "stand and deliver" operations of 'Ounslow 'eath