

that it is of the slightest importance to the public whether I can speak French or not, but because it is of the highest importance to me whether or not I am to be considered as ignorant as is thereby implied.

Your correspondent's regret that I was not "appointed" Secretary, the flimsy hypocrisy of which is revealed by the flourish in which he declares "I am not and never will be Secretary," requires no comment; but when he alleges as a reason that I am ignorant of the French language, he indulges in a reckless and ridiculous falsehood. Though strongly averse to making a parade of what little knowledge I possess, I may perhaps under the circumstances be permitted to say that I can now, and could before I came to the bar, some five or six years ago, read, write and speak the French language, not with the fluency of one familiar with it from infancy, but with a considerable degree of ease and correctness; and since my admission to the bar I have, whenever occasion arose examined and cross-examined witnesses in that language, as many of my *confrères* can testify. I venture to assert, also, that I can do either of those things (read, write or speak the French language) better than your correspondent, notwithstanding the assistance he has received from a French professor within no very remote period. Indeed, it would be no very extravagant assertion to make that I can write in French better than your correspondent can write in English, to judge by the composition of his letter. It is an edifying spectacle to see this Nestor of the bar lecturing his colloquists in bad English on the necessity of learning French. In his zeal he grows almost prophetic.

"Oh, for that warning voice which he who saw
The Apocalypse heard cry in heaven aloud."

Young men, take warning. Take warning by me and the awful fate which has overtaken me. Study French, even if you have to call in the services of a French professor, and you may one day come to be Secretary of the bar. I wonder, by the way, if the learned counsel gets a commission for preaching up the necessity of French; or, perhaps, as he and his tutor are both professors, they exchange services. That would be a neat arrangement, and inexpensive, and I commend it to the young men, especially

those with an ambition to be Secretary of the bar.

I did intend to reveal the name of your correspondent, but I forbear, feeling assured he will have the good sense to acknowledge his error at the earliest opportunity.

Very truly,

C. H. STEPHENS.

[We think Mr. Stephens is under a wrong impression as to the identity of our correspondent. That, however, is a matter of extremely small importance. We gladly afford him the opportunity of correcting the misstatement as to his knowledge of the French language, and with this the discussion may appropriately be brought to a close. It is only fair to add, that in the hurry of going to press with our last issue, a typographical error in "An Advocate's" communication escaped correction—"an English" should have read "was English." With reference to the question of speaking both languages, our experience of 25 years is this: Young French lawyers are so politely desirous to converse in English with their English *confrères* that the latter are seldom permitted to acquire the fluency in speaking a foreign tongue which comes from practice. Moreover, English diffidence is such that an Englishman, while intimately acquainted with French or German, will seldom speak it except from sheer necessity, though if forced to speak it, he would speak more correctly than many French persons speak English. On the other hand, French Canadians, as soon as they pick up a few words of English, make the most of them, and quickly extend their knowledge of the tongue.—ED.]

GENERAL NOTES.

The German Imperial Appellate Court has held the editor and the publisher of a newspaper guilty of publishing obscene writings, for putting the following advertisement in their paper:—"An unmarried gentleman, 28 years old, desires as a companion on a journey to Italy, which will last three or four months, a lady, not too young, with pretty looks. Offer, with precise statement of conditions, accompanied by photograph, may be sent to A.S.S., 299, care of this office. Strictest discretion assured." The Court considered that it was apparent from this advertisement that sexual relations were the object; and, the purpose being immoral, the offence was established, although the words did not appear to be obscene.