

law cast a duty upon the appellant to see that reasonable care and skill was exercised in those operations which involved a use of the party-wall belonging to himself and the respondent, exposing it to the risk above mentioned; and that the appellant could not get rid of responsibility by delegating the performance to a third person; and was liable to the respondent for the injury to his house. House of Lords, June 4, 1883. *Hughes v. Percival*. Opinions by Lords Blackburn, Watson, and Fitzgerald. (L. R., 7 App. Cas. 443.)

GENERAL NOTES.

The Supreme Court of Georgia has decided that cotton-future notes are absolutely void, because given in a gambling transaction.

The property of the religious orders in France in 1848 was estimated at 43,000,000fr. At the present moment it is set down at 712,536,000fr., or sixteen times more.

In the Circuit Court for the district of Montreal, 9,581 cases were taken out during the past year, as compared with 8,410 in 1882, an increase of 1,171. The number of ejectment cases taken out during the year under the Lessor and Lessee Act was 461, against 364 the previous year, an increase of 97.

During the past year 6,608 miles of track were built by railway companies in the United States, against 11,591 miles in 1882, 9,784 miles in 1881, and 7,174 miles in 1880, but, with the exception of these years, the mileage of 1883 has been previously exceeded only in 1871. The total railway mileage in the United States now foots up to 120,000 miles.

During the first cold term of this month 23° below zero was registered (Jan. 5) at St. Louis, and 27° below at Chicago. At Montreal the lowest temperature during the same cold term was 14° below. It is to be feared that St. Louis will hardly give unlimited satisfaction to the "arctic birds" who migrate from this margin of the frozen zone (see 6 L. N. p. 337) to seek a milder clime.

It sounds like a landmark in history, says the *London Times*, when we are told that there is no more room for interments in Westminster Abbey. Matters must have come to this pass when the dean has had to deny ground to the most distinguished member of that inventive class which the Roman poet admitted into the Pagan Elysium. It is said of the last two interments, those of Darwin and Spottiswoode, that the coffins were only a very few feet below the surface. For a long time there have been ghostly stories of the disturbance necessary to the finding room for a new arrival. This has been the case, indeed, for a century and a half, or more. Chaucer's grave was molested to make way for Dryden's, Ben Jonson's bones fell out one by one into the grave prepared for Sir Robert Wilson, and came in sight again when a grave was

dug for John Hunter. Addison lies upon the Duchess of Albemarle, and upon him James Craggs.

A judgment has been given in an interesting case before the Court of Appeal at Turin. Miss Lydia Poet, who has obtained a doctor's degree in law, was refused admittance to the roll of advocates for reasons among which are the following:—"The Italian law has made no disposition expressly consenting to the exercise of the profession of advocate by women, and it has always regarded that profession as exclusively pertaining to men. The admission of women would be extraordinary and contrary to custom, and is, besides, expressly forbidden by an article of common law (article quoted.) It would be an unpleasing sight to see a woman pleading amid the tumult of a public court, and sometimes obliged to treat *ex professo* questions that common decency forbids even men to discuss in the presence of honest women. The sight of the toga worn over the strange and whimsical dress which fashion often imposes upon women would imperil the gravity of the judges. Every time the balance of justice leaned to the side of a prisoner defended by a pretty female advocate the judges would be exposed to suspicion and calumny." The Court of Appeal also held that that was neither the time nor the place to discuss the equality of women and their right to exercise all professions and offices hitherto occupied exclusively by men.

In a lecture in New York on "Fashions in Marriage," Mgr. Capel said:—"I lived for years in France. The French system of contracting marriage ignores entirely the wishes and prejudices of the girl, and regards only the convenience to the parties. From such a system one naturally supposes unhappy unions would emanate, but on the contrary, I must bear witness that for the most part the marriage relation in France is very happy. I saw more happy marriages in France than in any other country. Nowhere is love of children so deep and strong as in France. On the other hand, in England the making of marriage contracts is in general entirely a matter of love. This love idea is carried to a preposterous extent. Nowhere else do we see dukes and marquises marrying their servants, ladies marrying their coachmen, and old women of three score and ten marrying youths scarcely twenty. The system ripens out into divorces, until to-day the courts cannot do the work they are called upon to do."

The thoughtful-looking man, with wrinkles in his forehead, is not exhibiting signs of mental strength, but of weakness. Brain tension exhibits effort, and effort shows that the intellectual machinery is not running smoothly. The man with the strong mind does his brain work easily. "Tension is friction," says the *Lancet*, "and the moment the toil of the brain becomes laborious it should cease. We are, unfortunately, so accustomed to see brain work done with effort that we had come to associate effort with work, and to regard tension as something tolerable, if not natural. As a matter of fact no man should ever knit his brow as he thinks, or in any way evince effort as he works. The best brain work is done easily, with a calm spirit, an equable temper, and in jaunty mood. All else is the toil of a weak or ill-developed brain straining to accomplish a task which is relatively too great for it."