

and good sense will easily escape. It is true that some of the judges of our day do occasionally appear to forget that, though they may assume the mien of an irate schoolmaster, members of the bar are not to be awed into silence like schoolboys. But upon the whole there is not much to be complained of on this head.

Several of the suggestions of the Committee have since been carried out. One of these was that the judges should be held to record, in every judgment, the grounds of their decision. Also the very proper recommendation to change the tenure of the judicial office, and substitute the words, "during good conduct" for "during pleasure" in the commission of the judges.

Some of the evils pointed out have since disappeared, such as having bankruptcy commissioners or judges practicing before the Courts; exorbitant fees paid to prothonotaries and criers, a joint shrievalty obstructing business, &c. In connection with the office of sheriff, it may be worth while to remark that the Committee recommended "that the office of sheriff *in civil matters*, should be abolished, and that the duties of that office should be performed by the prothonotaries;" and "that the functions of the sheriff should be confined to the criminal side of the Court, and he should himself receive a fixed salary."

SUPPLEMENTARY FACTUMS IN THE COURT OF APPEALS.

A rule was laid down by the Court of Appeal during the rendering of judgments on the ninth of this month, of which it is important that the members of the bar should not be ignorant. The CHIEF JUSTICE called the attention of the bar to the practice of sending supplementary notes or factums to the judges during vacation, and observed that he took this opportunity to intimate, that unless the Court gave leave, during the term, to gentlemen to send in supplementary memoranda in vacation, they would not be received; and, further, notice of such supplementary notes must, in all cases, be given to the counsel on the other side. Mr. BETHUNE, Q. C., inquired

whether this would apply also to lists of authorities, and whether the fact that the opposite party had received notice should be shown by his receipt of copy on the paper. The CHIEF JUSTICE replied, that this would be the more regular course. The rule would henceforward be that all supplementary memoranda must bear the signature of the opposite party.

Mr. JUSTICE BADGLEY added a few observations respecting the time of sending in the supplementary notes. He said that frequently after the judges had gone through the whole labour of the case, and had made up their minds, they were required at the last moment to go through a long list of new authorities, to the exclusion of other duties. If there were to be any supplementary notes, he said, let them be sent in immediately after the argument.

THE PATENT LAWS.

Some suggestions of importance to Inventors are put forth in a letter recently published by Messrs. CHARLES LEGGE & Co. The fact is pointed out that all the nations of the world, with the exception of Canada, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Switzerland, Greece, Turkey, China and Japan, grant letters patent for inventions to foreigners on the same terms as to their own subjects. New Brunswick and Newfoundland, among the British Provinces, have thrown off their exclusiveness and admitted foreigners to equal rights with their own citizens. "By this arrangement," says the letter before us, the inhabitants of these colonies, are permitted to obtain Patents in the United States, for the reduced fee of \$35, in place of the discriminating fee of \$500 charged to the inhabitants of Canada, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, in return for their exclusiveness in not permitting American citizens to obtain Letters Patent on any terms, even by the payment of an equally large fee. The United States Patent Law is so framed, that as soon as we cease to discriminate against their citizens in the granting of Patents in Canada, their fee at once drops from \$500 to \$35, without additional legislation." These facts are not very creditable