

did no harm to their professional prestige. Baron Cleasby welcomed a spare rainy day, because it swelled the fountains of Helicon for him. Lord Justice Knight Bruce—busiest of lawyers and judges—wrote one of the cleverest epigrams in verse that we have in the language.

We have been impelled to write this exordium to our notice of *Law Lyrics*, because Mr. Armour's personal history very strongly supports our view that there is not only no essential antagonism between the practice of belles-lettres and the practice of the law, but that, to a certain extent, the two may be correlated with the happiest results. Mr. Armour has for many years held a distinguished place at the Bar of Ontario, having attained early prominence as counsel in real property cases. He was for a long period one of the lecturers to the Law Society of Upper Canada; and has contributed three standard works to the library of the profession in Canada. All this means that he has not been slothful in business; yet that he did not the while neglect to "till the fields the muses love" is quite evident from the volume of verse that lies before us.

It is wholly the jocund note of the Comic Muse to which Mr. Armour bids us listen in *Law Lyrics*; but his technical mastery of several difficult metres used is so notable that it provokes in one a desire to hear songs "of a higher strain" from him.

The *Dedication* is quite Gilbertian in quality. It is so short that our space limit permits its quotation in full:

"It's a curious observation
To make, that dedication
Is common both to highways and to books;
But I am satisfied that you
Must acknowledge that it's true,
No matter how ridiculous it looks.

"But a highway's always free,
While a book can never be,
(The publishers, of course, would not advise it),
And so I beg to state
That I gladly dedicate
This little book to anyone who buys it."