

*Negligence—Elevators*:—Negligence on the part of the owner of a passenger elevator is held, in *Griffen v. Manice* (N.Y.), 52 L.R.A. 922, to be presumed from the falling from their frame of the counterbalance weights, followed by the fall of the elevator and the crashing of the weights through its roof, resulting in injury to a person who is a passenger thereon by the implied invitation of the owner.

The involuntary starting of an elevator by the conductor, who instinctively grasps the mechanism to save himself from falling as he attempts to sit down and finds the chair gone, is held in *Gibson v. International Trust Company* (Mass.), 52 L.R.A. 928, not to constitute negligence which will create a liability to a passenger who is injured by the starting of the car as he is stepping out of it.

The operators on passenger elevators are held in *Springer v. Ford* (Ill.), 52 L.R.A. 930, to be required upon grounds of public policy to exercise the highest degree of care and diligence in and about the operation of such elevators to prevent injury to passengers being carried thereon.

An employer whose servant is injured by the fall of an elevator furnished for his use is held, in *Spees v. Boggs* (P.A.), 52 L.R.A. 933, not to be bound to explain the cause of the accident in order to relieve himself from liability.

## Flotsam and Jetsam.

When the ante mortem epitaph composed for Lord Westbury by Mr. Wickens, which has been so often referred to, appeared in print, it naturally enough excited much attention among members of the bar, by whom Lord Westbury was respected for his learning, but not loved for his courtesy. The story goes that when James (always and only known as "fat James," for his bodily proportions were something more than ample) sailed majestically into Wood's Court, and with difficulty squeezed himself into his accustomed seat in the front row beside the sparse form of Mr. W. M. Gifford, Q.C., the first question of James to Gifford was, "Have you read the epitaph?"

"Yes, I have: it is inimitable. You must get Wickens to write yours for you, James?"

"I wonder what he would have to say about me, Gifford."

"For my part, James, I have long ago thought of the most appropriate epitaph for you. Shall I tell you what I think it should be? 'Let my latter end be like his.'"