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CURRENT TOPICS AND CASES.

Baron Courcel, the president of the Behring Sea Arbitration, has not been sparing of compliments to the counsel who addressed the court. So eulogistic were his expressions to the United States counsel (as reported by cable) that it seemed as if words would fail him when the turn of the opposing counsel came. But the president, as reported, referred also in the highest terms to the rhetorical power of Attorney-General Russell's ten days' speech, and at the close of Sir Richard Webster's address he declared that the court was deeply indebted to him for the elaborate study he had made of the case, and expressed his admiration of "the unrestricted and friendly cooperation of yesterday's attorney-general with to-day's attorney-general," adding that the country was indeed to be envied "where party spirit admits of such cordial brotherly association of political rivals when the national interest is at stake,"—which seems to travel a little outside of the special duty assigned to Baron Courcel.

In *Mitchell v. Bradstreet Co.*, the Supreme Court of Missouri held, May 2, 1893, that a false publication by a commercial agency as to the solvency of a business firm is not privileged where the publication sheet is issued to all the subscribers of the agency without regard to their being creditors of the firm.