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GENERAL NOTES.

Judah P. Benjamin, Q.C., has retired from practice at the English bar. The cause is said to be declining health. Mr. Benjamin has enjoyed a large and successful practice, almost since his admission to the English bar in 1836, and he is believed to have realized a considerable fortune.

A new terror is added to the anxieties of law examiners. Herr Keysner, a Supreme Court councillor at Berlin, lately received a package which, on examination, was found to contain an infernal machine. This, it is stated, was sent to him by a law student irritated at the severity of his examination.

In reply to a question in the House of Commons (Feb. 16), Sir John A. Macdonald stated that the work of consolidating the Statutes affecting Criminal law is not sufficiently advanced to enable it to be submitted for the consideration of Parliament during the present session. A report of progress has been made.

No one, we imagine, ever supposed that the old Courts at Westminster possessed "artistic merit." Nevertheless, among the things recently offered for sale there were materials of great beauty. It would be difficult to find wainscoting of a more solid and unblemished character than that of the Court of Exchequer, and it is to be hoped that it has fallen into good hands. The relic hunter was, however, placed at a considerable disadvantage. He could not buy a set of bookshelves without also investing in a jury-box, witness box and other pieces of furniture such as are not in request every day in private houses. It is almost melancholy to think of the possible destination of some of these classic planks.—*Law Times*.

The Longmans have just issued a thick volume containing passages from a manuscript of Lord Bacon, with parallel passages from Shakespeare's plays. The Bacon manuscript is in the Harleian collection. It was apparently drawn up as a sort of commonplace book for use in the great Chancellor's writings, but none of the quotations or phrases are to be found in his acknowledged works, while all are in Shakespeare. On the whole, this book is the most remarkable attempt yet made to prove that "Baconian theory" of Shakespeare with which both American and English readers have been acquainted through the books of Miss Delia Bacon, Mr. Nathaniel Holmes, and Mr. George Wilkes. The title of the manuscript is—"Progress of Formularies and Elegancies."

Portuguese deputies have to swear on the Holy Gospels to be faithful to the King and to maintain the Catholic Apostolic and Roman religion. A republican deputy during the present session has introduced a bill to abolish the religious oath. He would replace the Holy Gospels by an urn filled with the electoral returns, and proposes that every deputy shall stretch his hand over the urn, which would represent the national sovereignty, and promise on his honor to devote all his powers to the preparation of just and wise laws, which would tend to establish on solid bases the rights of the citizen and the greatness and glory of the country.

The Jeffersonville correspondence of the *Courier-Journal* says: "Gilligan, Clegg & Anthony are arranging to bring suit against the Jeffersonville Railway for \$10,000 for a peculiar damage they claim resulted to their plaintiffs. John Wyatt and a Louisville detective went to the house of two ex-Kentuckians, at a point near Henryville, Clark County, one night, more than a year ago. They put the men under arrest for an alleged crime committed in Kentucky, and took them to the railroad station at Henryville. Captain Clegg, who was attorney for the accused party, notified the conductor, Will Conner, that the officers were kidnapping the men and had no warrant to arrest them. The conductor said he didn't care, if they had tickets he must take them. The attorneys think they gave the Company proper notice as a common carrier not to assist the officers in kidnapping, and they want to see if there is any liability in such a case. The men were afterward acquitted by a Kentucky Court."

Amusing "definitions" are cropping out on every hand. In *Moir's Estate*, Eng. Ch. Div., Nov. 3, 1882, the testator directed that "all the household goods, furniture, pictures, prints, books, china, articles of vertu, and all my plate, jewels, and all other things in and about the said mansion house," should be "annexed to the same as heirlooms to be enjoyed by the person or persons for the time being beneficially entitled to the said mansion house under the limitations hereinbefore contained." He died possessed, *inter alia*, of a cellar of wines, and two carriage horses and three carriages and harness. Kay, J., held that the property in question, being consumable, did not pass as "heirlooms."—In the *Matter of Hastings*, Philadelphia Quarter Sessions, Nov. 27, 1882, (*Leg. Int.*, Dec. 1, 1882), it was held that a "garden," where spirituous drinks were sold, and there was singing, dancing and boxing on the stage, "by the best artists," although no entrance fee was charged, and there was no drop-curtain, scenery, or footlights, was a "place of amusement," within the act exacting licenses for "any theatre, circus, museum or other place of amusement." The Court observed: "Why it should be called a garden at all does not appear, since it contains neither trees, flowers, plants, grass nor botanical specimens of any kind, nor in fact anything whatsoever suggestive of horticulture. It must be therefore by some figure of speech that it is called a garden, just as one speaks of any place of great enjoyment as a paradise. Perhaps this is a paradise to those accustomed to resort there."—*Albany Law Journal*.