

or another by the judge who heard the argument. He took, however, the extraordinary course of refusing to decide the point, directing the parties to go to trial and see whether the facts as alleged were true, before deciding whether their truth or falsity made any difference in the case.

LAW STAMPS.

OUR court, following the decision of the Privy Council in *Attorney General v. Reed*, has held that the Act relating to law stamps is *ultra vires*. The officials at the court house, however, acting under the direction of the government, refuse to recognize the validity of the decision. In other words, the officers of a court refuse to act upon the law laid down by the same court, confirmed by the Supreme Court and the Privy Council; and the government not only sanctions the proceeding but directs it. The officials excuse themselves on the ground that, if they act as they should, they will be dismissed from office. And the excuse of the government, we suppose, is that they must have revenue. The latter apology would justify burglary. The former is an insult to the government itself.
