

The Legal News.

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EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE.

Quebec gives us a case, *Ouimet v. Verville*, unique of its order under the law of master and servant. The secretary-treasurer of the school commissioners of a rural parish, St. Jean des Chaillons, received from the local government of Quebec, for the use of his commissioners, a cheque for \$163.51. Banking facilities do not abound in the country parts of this Province, and Monsieur Verville, the secretary-treasurer, tried in vain to get the cheque cashed in the parish. He could find no one able or willing to give current coin or notes for the Provincial sign manual. What was to be done? The poor school mistresses had not been paid their dues for a long time back, and were in sore need of their miserable pittance. In this perplexity Mr. Verville betook himself to the chairman of the school commissioners, a dignity which may be assumed to be synonymous with all that is solid and respectable. The chairman proved to be the very person to solve the difficulty. He was not in funds himself, but he was about to visit the capital on the following day, for a little relaxation, and he undertook to get the cheque cashed. So Mr. Verville cheerfully handed over the slip of paper to his superior officer, and went away without a thought of coming calamity. The chairman next day embarked for Quebec, duly reached his destination, and, on the good rule of attending to business before pleasure, went to the office of the Bank of Montreal and got the cheque cashed. It appeared that there was a trifle of \$23.51 due to himself by the Board, and having first prudently separated this sum from the rest, he put the balance, \$140, in a particular pocket, to be handed to the secretary on his return home, and then gave himself up to enjoyment. What followed on that ill-omened day is not accurately known, probably never will be. The chairman, according to the statement of counsel, owned to having imbibed "four or five, five or six glasses of liquor," and later on, went to a crowded public

meeting to divert himself by listening to the speeches. After enjoying this favorite rustic entertainment for an indefinite period, and probably being not the least lusty in his applause of the orators of the evening, our chairman resorted to a tavern to refresh himself with a glass of beer, and there made the discovery that the \$140 of school money had disappeared from its place of deposit—his own funds do not appear to have been touched.

Constonation no doubt pervaded St. Jean, and especially its poor school-mistresses. The ratepayers assembled and wrathfully demanded the dismissal, not of the chairman, but of the unfortunate secretary. The commissioners dismissed him accordingly. But this was not punishment enough. The Superintendent of Public Education, acting for the school commissioners, sought to hold unhappy Monsieur Verville responsible for the loss. This seems to be an improvement on the appeal from Philip drunk to Philip sober. It was equivalent to the chairman sober holding his subordinate responsible for the conduct of the chairman unbending himself. Well might the learned judge before whom the case was tried exclaim, "Such a pretension appears to me one of revolting injustice." Law and justice are happily found to be on the same side, and the employee has been freed from responsibility for a loss which was brought about by no fault or negligence on his part, but which resulted from the act of the chairman of his employers. The case having been taken to appeal, the decision of the lower court in favor of the secretary-treasurer has been affirmed.

CICERO.

Anthony Trollope, though not always profound, is never dull. The following is a passage from his recent life of Cicero:—"What a man he would have been for London life! How he would have enjoyed his club, picking up the news of the day from all lips, while he seemed to give it to all ears! How popular he would have been at the Carlton, and how men would have listened to him while every great or little crisis was discussed! How supreme he would have sat on the treasury bench, or how unanswerable, how fatal, how joyous, when attacking the government from the opposite seats! How crowded would have been his rack with invita-