

presided at the Geneva Court of Arbitration, and achieved great credit for his conduct on that occasion. He was considered as one of the foremost international lawyers of the age.

**GENERAL NOTES.**

**TESTATE AND INTESTATE.**—In the year 1876-77 "Probate or Inventory Duty" was paid on property left by will, estimated at £120,628,580 and on £11,118,800 on persons dying intestate. In the former the cases numbered 30,498 and in the latter 10,408. Last year in England 8,664 persons died intestate leaving property worth £9,208,175; in Scotland, 629, worth £768,730; and in Ireland, 1,115, worth £1,141,895.—*London Times.*

**THE LAW'S DELAYS.**—The London papers are greatly concerned over the law's delay, and are asking, is there no cure? It is claimed that the knowledge of a disease is half its cure; that more than one-half the law's delays are caused by the judges wasting their time, and their want of dispatch in disposing of business. Comparisons are being made between the judges and the time it takes them to dispose of cases. It is claimed that in one court, the judge will be engaged a whole day in hearing a motion, talking and joking with the counsel, and that if a case goes over the motion day, it is equivalent to a continuance for three months, and that when a case is heard, he often takes it under advisement for months, which sometimes operates as a perpetual injunction. It is said of another judge, that he never takes any case under advisement, but decides all cases that come before him as soon as the evidence is heard; and that on motion day he will dispose of twenty or thirty motions in an hour; that he will not listen to the discussions of counsel which do not relate to the questions in issue; that he says but very little himself, and that little to the point; and that as a consequence his docket is kept up, and what is known as the law's delay is not allowed to obstruct the course of justice in his court. The *London Courier* devotes three columns to describing these judges, and the way they dispose of their business. The first it calls Judge Slow, the last Judge Quick. Much that it says applies as well to the way justice is administered in America as in England. We have no doubt much more

judicial labor could be performed by the courts of America if our judges would more fully realize the importance and cost of their time to the people. Our courts are not the places to discuss politics or war news, but to try cases in the least possible time consistent with justice. A judge can accomplish a great deal in the course of a year, if he will do no unnecessary talking himself, and allow the bar to do none. Talking judges are always unpopular with the bar. There are no class of men that like to see despatch in business more than lawyers. If any judge who is considered slow by the lawyers, will follow the above suggestions for a month, he will be astonished at the amount of judicial labour performed within the month. Few of us realize how much time we waste. This is especially so with judges.—*Chicago Legal News.*

**SERVING THE DEAD.**—Some Wisconsin sheriffs seem to have but faint notions of decency and propriety. The following is a *verbatim* copy of a summons and return of the sheriff thereon in a justice's court in a suit in Sparta, Wis.:

MONROE COUNTY, } ss.  
Town of Sparta. }

*The State of Wisconsin to the Sheriff or any Constable of said County:*

You are hereby commanded to summon A. Weigand, if he shall be found within your county, to appear before the undersigned, one of the Justices of the Peace in and for said county, at my office in said town, on the 10th day of September, A.D. 1875, at 9 o'clock in the forenoon, to answer to Isaac Tuteur, plaintiff, to his damage two hundred dollars or under. Hereof fail not at your peril.

Given under my hand, this 3rd day of September, 1875.

SAMUEL HOYT,  
Justice of the Peace.

MONROE COUNTY, ss.

I, Geo. B. Robinson, Deputy Sheriff of said county, do certify that I have been to the defendant's usual place of abode, and find he is dead, and so I left a copy at his last and final abode in my county, to wit: on his grave in the town of Ridgeville, he not leaving any family or funds behind. He leaves this world without a cent, and has gone where the plaintiff can't sell him whisky. Alas! Tuteur is out, and Weigand is dead!

C. W. McMILLAN, Sheriff.  
By GEO. B. ROBINSON, Deputy.

Service and copy..... \$ 25  
Travel, forty miles..... 4 00  
\$4 25