

girl believed the coin to be a silver dollar. It was admitted that his equivocal words to the child's misstatement that the coin was only a dollar were none the less effectual in the accomplishment of his fraudulent design, and were, perhaps, the most effectual means he could have employed to allay suspicion. Their conclusion, however, was that the offence was not larceny, but came within the purview of the statute defining the offence as that of being a common cheat or swindler. Without having the wording of the statute before us, it is impossible to agree or otherwise with this view, but, under similar circumstances in this country, we should be inclined to think the offence would be larceny.

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*THE BREHON LAW.*

*(Concluded)*

*De minimis non curat lex*, was not a maxim in vogue among the ollamhs (teachers of law) or the Brehons (judges) in ancient Erinn.

Fascinating as is this grand old book, space forbids us dwelling on it longer. A study of the criminal law is more necessary for the readers of the *LAW JOURNAL*, so to the Book of Aicill, the Irish Criminal Code, we will confine ourselves. It is for reasons peculiar to itself worthy of study, and exhibits, more completely than any other archaic code, the ideas of an early society as to the whole body of acts included under the names of crimes and torts. It is probably the oldest of these law books, and remained materially unaltered from the date of the earliest notices of its existence down to the final suppression of the Irish tribal system at the commencement of the seventeenth century. It is composed of the opinions, or dicta of two highly eminent men, King Cormac Mac Airt (who reigned in the second quarter of the third century), and Cennfaeladh, the Learned, (a soldier of the seventh century). Aicill was a place nigh to Tara. The origin of this work (as given in it) is singular. One Aengus Gabhuaidech, at the suggestion of a woman, went to Cormac's home to avenge the daughter of his kinsman upon Cormac's son, Cellach. Aengus