

Notes on Exchange and Legal Scrap Book.

BANKING LAW.—The tendency to specialization in legal practice is marked, and as the community increases in wealth, and the intricacy of the relationships brought about by advancing civilization is multiplied, this tendency must be strengthened. Its effect on legal journalism has hitherto not been marked. Among the recent candidates for professional recognition and subscriptions is one which gives its attention to our department. Its name indicates its chosen field. *The Banking Law Journal* is published semi-monthly at New York. Thomas B. Paton is the editor and proprietor. This magazine has now reached its ninth number, and promises to be a valuable addition to the already somewhat long list of legal periodicals. It is carefully edited, and its articles are of much interest. We cordially welcome it as an exchange.

A JURY AT A PRAYER MEETING.—A somewhat peculiar set of circumstances led to an application for a new trial in *Shaw v. Slate*, which was granted. The case was noted in the *Albany Law Journal* a short time ago. The facts are given in the following extract from the judgment of the Supreme Court of Georgia, before which the motion for a new trial was argued: These affidavits show, in substance, that pending the trial and after the argument to the jury had begun, night came on, and the court took a recess until the following morning, and instructed the bailiff who had charge of the jury, and the jury themselves, not to allow any one to speak to them, or to speak in their presence about the cause, nor to discuss it among themselves until the argument in the case was concluded; that during that night the bailiff took the jury from the jury-room (where he was ordered to keep them) to a church where a prayer-meeting was being held, conducted by the pastor, who was the active prosecutor in the case; that upon their arrival at the church, the prosecutor, Mr. Hooten, politely assigned the jury to seats in the church, separate and apart from the congregation, and that he addressed the jury. The affidavits further show that upon the termination of the exercises the jury left the church and mixed with the crowd, some of the congregation going out before and some after the jury. The State introduced a number of affidavits to show that while the jury attended the meeting at the church, they were given seats wholly apart from the congregation, and that no reference was at any time made to "any law case whatever;" that they left the church in a body in charge of the bailiff, without mixing with the crowd, and without any person having any opportunity to have a conversation with them, either while they were at the church or when they were leaving it; and that the prayer to which reference is made on the seventh ground of the motion made no further reference to the court and jury in said case than to ask "that the blessings of God might rest upon our government, with its officers, and that God would bless the officers of the court then in session, that they might be guided aright in the discharge of their duties." The bailiff, who was in charge of the