

NEW RULES OF COURT IN ENGLAND—HUMOURS OF THE LAW.

for bringing the action of dower had expired, which would not be until 1874? and if not, then the subsequent possession was insufficient to confer a title.

THE Weekly Notes for Aug. 4 contains in the form of a supplement the new consolidated Rules of Court, dated January 12th, 1883, but not to come into operation until October 24th, 1883. The projected rules have been creating a great stir among the legal fraternity in England. On the one hand the junior barristers, "fresh and hearty," but "impecunious parties," complain that pleadings from which they have been in the habit of making no small gain, are practically abolished, and the newly elected Bar committee has petitioned Parliament to petition Her Majesty to amend them. So likewise have the Incorporated Law Society who complain not only of injury to the interests of solicitors, but also of the fact that they were not consulted by the Judges who framed the rules. In the *London Mail* of 13th ult., will be found an interesting debate in the Commons, arising from the presentation by Sir H. Giffard of these petitions. We purpose reprinting his speech in our next issue, as it will interest many of our readers. It appears that of 1045 rules, 125 are new, and involve very great innovations. Amongst others the equivalent of our Rule 80 is extended to actions for the recovery of land. Then, Rule 285 is as follows: "No demurrer shall be allowed;" Rule 286, showing that the consent of the Court or Judge must be obtained before a point of law raised by the pleading can be disposed of before the trial. Again, much commotion has been raised by Rule 462, which provides that the Judge may in all cases disallow any questions put in cross-examination of any party or other witness which may appear to him to be vexatious and not relevant to any matter proper to be enquired into in the cause or matter. So too Rule 368 is startling and has startled. It provides: "Any party seek-

ing discovery by interrogatories shall, before delivery of interrogatories, pay into Court the sum of £5, and if the number of folios exceed five, the further sum of 10s. for every additional folio. Any party seeking discovery otherwise than by interrogatories shall, before making application for discovery, pay into Court . . . the sum of £5, and may be ordered further to pay into Court as aforesaid such additional sum as the Court or Judge shall direct." It is further complained that a fresh blow has been struck at trial by jury in increased discretion given to the Judges in respect to allowing a jury. We hope in our next number to give our readers further information as to these new rules, which it appears are to come into operation notwithstanding the above mentioned petition.

HUMOURS OF THE LAW.

If any member of the legal profession ever says from his heart, with Burns—

"O wad some power the giftie gie us,
To see oursels as ithers see us."

or utters words to the like effect, he can easily have his desires satisfied by buying and perusing Mr. Browne's book on the "Humorous Phases of the Law." In it Mr. Browne, who is a veritable *belluo librorum* with a perfect *cacoethes scribendi*, shows how law and lawyers have been depicted in literature—and verily the dramatists, novelists, historians, essayists, and moralists which he quotes, were by no means æsthetic in their tastes; they used no neutral tints, but laid on the strongest shades with no sparing hand; they painted as if they had nothing but black upon their palettes.

Too many of those who have in their works touched upon law and lawyers, have forgotten that old Burton called them the oracles and pilots of a well governed commonwealth, and have remembered only that the anatomist apparently, in one of his darkest hours of melancholy, upbraided them as