

OUR ENGLISH LETTER—PROVINCIAL STATUTES OF LAST SESSION.

principle that, in a contract for the letting of a furnished house there is an implied warranty that the house is let for human habitation. The concrete example which called forth the law from its home amongst the reports was that of a landlord who deliberately concealed the fact that the house he attempted to let was infected with measles. In these days of sanitary science, we may expect to see a wide application of the principle. *Johnson v. Mudford* is a wonderful instance of the perversity which British Juries will sometimes show. The coroner for Canterbury misbehaved himself grossly, and the *Kentish Observer* ventures to comment upon this august official in severe terms. The result was an action for libel in which the Lord Chief Justice virtually directed a verdict for the defendant by summing up strongly in his favour; but the British reverence for authority was too strong and twelve good men and true returned a verdict for the plaintiff. In this finding there was a deplorable absence of common sense, and new trial may be regarded as a moral certainty.

A good deal of preliminary nonsense was written and talked concerning the case of Lord St. Leonards who was tried yesterday at the Central Criminal Court for the vulgar offence of an indecent assault. It was said, even by competent lawyers, that he might have claimed to be tried before his peers. But the journals, in general, seem to have been visited with a torrent of letters informing them that they had made a mistake and they very soon changed front. The trial itself was supremely interesting from the name of the accused and the misfortune of his position. If there is one class of cases which more than any other cries aloud for the passing of a law to enable prisoners to be examined as witnesses, it was to be found here. There could be but two witnesses to a disgusting transaction; the mouth of one was closed

and that of the other was open. Beyond this it was proved that the prosecutrix was, or had been, unchaste; yet, to the profound amazement of the whole court, her evidence was believed and the prisoner was found guilty. Now the evidence of a chaste woman is always believed, and it is the obvious conclusion that, if all juries were like the puritanical twelve men who sat at the Old Bailey yesterday, no man would be safe against an accusation of this kind. In fact, M. Max O'Rell, in his inimical book *John Bull et Son Ile*, reckons the chances of such an accusation as the chief danger of British society.

Canadian lawyers are not free from the danger of foreign invasions, though they have no reason to fear competition. A correspondent of the *Law Times* writes to ask what formalities must be gone through by a *Docteur en Droit Francaise* who has practised as an advocate in Paris, before he can appear in the courts of Quebec and Montreal. Unless this good gentleman has domestic reasons for wishing to leave France and to go to Canada he will be well-advised if he remains at home and measures his talents against those of his own countrymen.

PROVINCIAL STATUTES OF LAST SESSION.

We propose to call our readers' attention to such of the enactments of last session as are of special importance to the practising lawyer. In this view chapter 4 being an Act for the amendment of the Election Law, and for the better prevention of corrupt and illegal practices at elections to the Legislative Assembly, first requires a brief mention. This act is to be read as part of the Election Act, R. S. O. c. 10, and the Controverted Election Act, R. S. O. c. 11. It commences by further defining what shall constitute corrupt practices, and amongst other things pro-