

REVIEWS—ITEMS.

frequent the same, for information thereon. Your Librarian has accordingly purchased complete series of the Minutes of Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers since 1837; of the Journal of the Franklin Institute of Pennsylvania from 1826; and from the *Scientific American* from 1859; all of them works of the highest utility in practical science, and which, from their cost and magnitude, are beyond the reach of ordinary private purchasers."

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS. Montreal.

This improves week by week, and is a credit to the Editors and Publishers.

THE LAW OF NEGLIGENCE. By Robert Campbell, M.A. Stevens & Haynes, Bell-yard, Temple Bar, London.

Will be fully noticed hereafter.

LAW MAGAZINE AND LAW REVIEW. February, 1871. Butterworths, Fleet Street, London.

Will be fully noticed hereafter.

LA REVUE CRITIQUE DE LEGISLATION ET DE JURISPRUDENCE DU CANADA. Montreal: Dawson Brothers.

Will be fully noticed hereafter.

LA REVUE LEGALE. RECUEIL DE JURISPRUDENCE ET D'ARRÊTS. Vol. 2. Sorel, P. Q.

AMERICAN LAW REGISTER. D. B. Canfield & Co., Philadelphia.

THE COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH.—The Court of Queen's Bench has during the last ten days played the part of a strict disciplinarian. Terrible threats of striking out cases in the Special Paper when counsel are wanting at the moment the cases are called on, threats of fines and striking out when judges' notes are unstamped, or even when the paragraphs of special cases are unnumbered—these and like menaces put forward to frighten counsel, attorneys, and attorneys' clerks into a proper attention to the business of the court, have been followed in certain instances by fulfilments which show that this time the court is really in earnest. This *de rigueur* style of action necessarily inflicts anxiety, trouble and inconvenience on the bar and the attorneys, and expense on the innocent suitors. But what is the Court to do? If it were always easy, good-natured, and obliging, willing to condone this omission, pardon that offence, ready to postpone this cause and to bring on that cause out of its turn, chaos would inevitably return and sit triumphant in the very seat of law and order. It is impossible for a Court exercising so varied and

extensive a jurisdiction to keep down the arrears in the Crown Paper and in the Special Paper, and to get through the New Trial Rules before new sittings and new assizes bring in a new flood of cases, unless some attempt is made to compel attorneys to be in readiness at the given moment. English judges are possessed of proverbial patience, and their thunder is always more alarming than their thunderbolt. But that they should be annoyed when matters of form universally known are neglected, to the absolute destruction of business, is neither astonishing nor desirable. —*English paper.*

LAWYERS IN EUROPE.—Recent statistics develop some facts of interest with regard to the number of lawyers in different European countries, and their ratio to the population at large. For example, we learn that in England there is one lawyer to every 1,240 of the population; in France, one for every 1,970; in Belgium, one for every 2,700; and in Prussia, one for every 12,000 only. Another curious fact is, that in England the number of persons belonging to each of the different professions is nearly the same. Thus, there are 34,970 lawyers, 35,483 clergymen, and 35,895 physicians. In Prussia, on the other hand, there are 4,809 physicians to only 1,332 lawyers.—*Bench and Bar.*

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—A learned judge remarked that he had lately five cases before him of claims for compensation against railway companies, and that the jurors had found in favour of the defendants. The companies had better pause before they agitate to take from juries the right of assess damages. Such a change would be exceedingly unpopular, and we are not sure that the companies would get better treatment from any other tribunal. The juries give the companies the benefit of any doubt as to their responsibility; but if the responsibility is proved, they give the unfortunate sufferers ample compensation. We hold that the rule is fair and wholesome. Recent catastrophes will not dispose the public to reduce the just responsibility of the companies.—*English paper.*

THE COURT IN A FOG—Last week Mr. Justice Blackburn reprimanded the usher of the Court for opening or not opening the windows on foggy mornings, and subsequently told persons with coughs to leave the Court. Likely enough clergymen would be glad to order coughers to leave the church if they had the authority to do so. The learned judge ordered the gas to be put out, which resulted in partial poisoning, as the gas could not be turned off as soon as it was put out. Upon candles being called for, the usher informed the Court that there were only two candlesticks, which the judge shared with counsel. It did not occur to the usher to invest twopence in potatoes and extemporise candlesticks. When the new Law Courts are built there will be no more discomfort for lawyers or suitors. And when will the new Law Courts be built? Perhaps our great-grandchildren may see them commenced.—*English Paper.*