

getting simpler; are to go on in the old style, gradually getting more difficult of proof with each change of ownership; and thereby the possibility of their being registered will be rendered more and more difficult as time rolls on. This decision appears to have been arrived at by a somewhat artificial and technical construction of the Act, which certainly is broad enough in its terms to have warranted a more liberal construction.

The learned chief justice had not the benefit of argument of counsel, and his decision was given upon a case stated by the Registrar-General. These facts stated, showed that letters of administration of the personal estate and effects of a deceased owner were granted to a Mr. Sutherland, and under these letters he assumed to convey the equity of redemption. It occurs to us that the letters of administration in any case, to be effectual to give title to the real estate, should extend in terms to the real as well as the personal estate of the deceased. One of the questions propounded was, whether letters of administration were sufficient proof of the death and intestacy of the deceased; the learned chief justice, founding himself on the law of England, came to the conclusion that letters of administration were not sufficient proof of death and intestacy as regards the realty. But if the letters of administration are expressly granted in respect of both real and personal estate, we do not see why the letters would not be just as ample proof of death and intestacy as regards the realty as they are with regard to the personalty.

On the whole, we think it is unfortunate that so important a question should have been disposed of without argument, and, as it were, by a sort of side wind.

Notes on Exchanges and Legal Scrap Book.

"THE WEEK."—We are pleased to notice the improvement which has been made in our esteemed contemporary, *The Week*, now in the sixth year of its publication. The publishers promise that its independent attitude in politics and criticism will be rigidly maintained, and we understand that important additions to its list of contributors will give additional interest to its columns during the coming year. In its enlarged form, it is the same size as *Harper's Weekly*, and is the largest paper of its class on the continent. We commend *The Week* to our readers as an excellent example of the higher type of journalism. The price remains as formerly, \$3 per annum.

THE FIRST CASE IN CHICAGO.—The following sketch from the *Chicago Legal News* is from the pen of Dr. Caton, ex-Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Illinois.

Perhaps ten days after Spring and myself had introduced ourselves to the little public of Chicago, I obtained a client. Ready to earn a little outside the profession, both Spring and myself had undertaken to carry the chain for Josh. Hathaway, who had come to Chicago with me, and had been given a small job of surveying by Geo. W. Snow, who was Deputy County Surveyor.