

Master and Servant.

Unless the Court of Appeal fails to uphold a judgment delivered on the 9th ult., by the Lord Chief Justice in the Court of Queen's Bench, Mr. Scullard, described as a publican, will be liable to a firm of jewellers for \$1,750 under the following peculiar circumstances. A jeweller conducting business under the name of Jones & Sons, in Holloway Road, London, brought suit against the publican for injuries to stock and premises owing to the negligent driving of the defendant's servant. It appeared from the evidence submitted that on Jubilee Day the defendant and a lady friend were in a brougham driven by a man named Loveday. The horse became unmanageable and ran with the brougham, the publican, and his lady friend, into the jeweller's establishment. Of course, the resultant damage was of much the same character as that caused by the bull in a China shop, and it is not surprising that the jeweller figured as the plaintiff in a suit for damages. In trying to fasten liability upon the publican, the jeweller discovered that the brougham belonged to the defendant; that the horse belonged to the defendant; that the harness belonged to the defendant; and that the boots, breeches, waistcoat and hat worn by the driver Loveday had been supplied to him by the defendant; but the person who was arrayed in all this had been supplied to the defendant by a liveryman whose stables adjoined one of the defendant's public houses. We cannot surely fail to sympathize with the Lord Chief Justice who in delivering judgment said that, although this was only a running-down case, it had caused him "considerable trouble and anxiety," and it was to be desired that the matter should ultimately go to the Court of Appeal, so that a comprehensive and intelligible principle could be laid down to govern such a complicated case.

The chief question which seems to have bothered both judge and jury was, whose servant was the man from the livery stable? One would naturally think that, when wearing boots, breeches, waistcoat and hat supplied by the publican, the driver of the brougham belonged to the publican, body and breeches, and could hardly be repudiated by his temporary master. But the accident on Jubilee Day caused the defendant to promptly disown all responsibility for the man from the livery stable, and of the plea of the defendant "I am not the person responsible because the man did not represent me, nor was he my servant, but he was the servant of another," has proved so perplexing to the lawyers that, pending an appeal, the Lord Chief Justice has granted a stay of execution.

An Angelic Board.

One would hardly look for angels among the directors of a London joint stock company. Guinea pigs are, of course, plentiful; but the price paid for same does not point to any depreciation in their value because of recent disclosures. The angel of ancient times, in old Eng-

land, was a golden coin, worth about ten shillings, and bearing the figure of an angel. "Having angel gold strung on white ribbon on his arm," says Fuller.

But the immortal Shakespeare remarks of the class of ministering spirits referred to at the first general meeting of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, Limited, on the 17th ultimo.

"Angels are bright still, though the brightest fell."

The angelical behaviour of the Board of this company seems to warrant the great playwright's statement, and to have merited marks of approval from shareholders mainly by reason of the unwillingness of its members to accept what was due to them under the articles of association by which they were entitled, in addition to a fixed remuneration, to one-fifth of the surplus profits after a dividend of ten per cent. on the paid-up capital had been paid. Old Drury Lane Theatre paid a dividend of twenty per cent., and each director's share of the surplus profit amounted to about \$2,155; but the Chairman said "this is more than we contemplated receiving and more than we ought to take," and forthwith this angelic chairman and every other director of the company reduced his share to \$1,460. They did more. They calmly proposed an alteration in the articles of association by which no director's share of the surplus profits of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, Limited, will, in future, exceed \$1,000.

The Chairman was a noble lord, and it is not surprising that his action called forth many encomiums from the shareholders of Old Drury, just leased from the Duke of Bedford for forty years. A Mr. Booth, in moving the adoption of the resolution to reduce the allowance to the Board, said the directors must have worked well, and it was surprising and gratifying to learn that they had voluntarily returned \$4,000 of their fees to the company. There was laughter when Mr. Booth expressed amazement at directors petitioning shareholders to reduce salaries. There was more laughter when he spoke of straining his eyes to see whether the directors, including the noble chairman, were growing wings. There was positive hilarity when this jocular shareholder earnestly entreated the manager to provide shears for the purpose of clipping these wings, should same appear, so as to prevent the flight of this angelic board to celestial glory.

In reviewing the proceedings of the meeting in question, we have tried to dress up the speech of the surprised shareholder to suit any dull or inactive intellect. But the general and pronounced effect of the meeting showed that the recent revelations of Ernest Terah Hooley, only a year ago a name to conjure with, have stirred some company directors into giving up even that to which, in this instance, they were clearly entitled.

Money is very sensitive, and it takes very little to throw those controlling it into what the boys of Eton call "a horrid funk."