

Bishop of Toronto v. Cantwell.—Action of ejectment. Verdict for defendant. Rule nisi for a new trial discharged.
Fraser v. Hickman.—Rule discharged.

PRACTICE COURT.

Present: MORRISON, J.

December 15, 1862.

Lyall v. Forgie.—Rule nisi discharged.
Gwynne v. G. T. R. Co.—Reference to master.
Charlesworth v. Crooks.—Rule discharged with costs.
In re VanNorman.—Rule absolute, with costs to be paid in ten days.
Titus v. Cardie.—Rule absolute.
Miller v. Norman.—Rule absolute to refer back award, upon payment of costs of this application. Costs of award to abide the event.
Forsyth v. Greenwood.—Rule absolute without costs.
Moffatt v. White.—Rule discharged upon payment of certain costs specified.
William v. Belyca.—Rule absolute upon payment of nisi prius costs, but not costs of application.
Smart v. Colfage.—Rule absolute with costs—\$14 witness fees to be deducted.
Coombs v. Cuddey.—Rule absolute without costs.
Bartlett v. Benson.—Rule absolute if costs not paid on or before first day of next term.
Macaulay v. Ewing.—Rule absolute without costs.
McKellar v. Douglass.—Rule absolute for procedendo, but without costs.

SELECTIONS.

LEGAL LONDON.

There is a legal district of London as unmistakably as there is a Jew's quarter in Frankfort; for the *Juden-gasse* of the German free town is hardly more distinct from the Zeil, than Chancery Lane and its environs from the City or West End of our metropolis.

And as there are several foreign colonies scattered throughout the British capitol—as Hatton Garden and its purlieus, swarming with glass-blowers and organ-grinders, is the metropolitan Italia; the neighbourhood of Leicester Square, with its congregation of beards and soft hats, the cockney Gallia Ulterior; and the parish of St. Giles, where the courts and cellars teem with hod-men and market-women, the London Hibernia; so there is a peculiar race of people groined around the courts of law and inns of court—Westminster and Lincoln's Inn being the two great legal provinces of London even as York and Canterbury are the two great ecclesiastical provinces of England.

A reference to the map will show that legal London is composed not only of lawyers' residences and chambers, but of inns of court and law courts—civil as well as criminal, "superior" as well as petty—and county courts, and police courts, and prisons; and that whilst the criminal, the county, and police courts, as well as the prisons, are dotted, at intervals, all over the metropolis, the superior law courts are focussed at Westminster and Guildhall; the inns of court being grouped round Chancery Lane, and the legal residences, or rather "chambers" (for lawyers, like merchants, now-a-days, live mostly away from their place of business) concentrated into a dense mass about the same classic spot, but thinning gradually off towards Guildhall and Westminster, as if they were the connecting links between the legal courts and the legal inns.

The inns of court are themselves sufficiently peculiar to give

a strong distinctive mark to the locality in which they exist; for here are seen broad open squares like hugo court-yards, paved and treeless, and flanked with grubby mansions—as big and cheerless—looking as barracks—every one of them being destitute of doors, and having a string of names painted in stripes upon the door-posts, that reminds one of the lists displayed at an estate-agent's office, and there is generally a chapel-like edifice called the "hall," that is devoted to feeding rather than praying, and where the lawyerlings "qualify" for the bar by eating so many dinners, and become at length—gastronomically—"learned in the law." Then how peculiar are the tidy legal gardens attached to the principal inns, with their close-shaven grass-plots looking as sleek and bright as so much green plush, and the clean-swept gravel walks thronged with children, and nurse-maids, and law-students. How odd, too, are the desolate-looking legal alleys or courts adjoining these inns, with nothing but a pump or a cane-bearing street-keeper to be seen in the midst of them, and occasionally at one corner, beside a crypt-like passage, a stray dark and dingy barber's shop, with its seedy display of powdered horsehair wigs of the same dirty-white hue as London snow. Who, moreover, has not noted the windows of the legal fruiterers and law stationers hereabouts, stuck over with small announcements of clerkships wanted, each penned in the well-known formidable straight-up-and-down three-and-fourpenny hand, and beginning with a "THIS-INDENTURE"—like flourish of German Text, "THE WRITER HEREOF," &c. Who, too, while threading his way through the monastic-like byways of such places, has not been startled to find himself suddenly light upon a small enclosure, comprising a tree or two, and a little circular pool, hardly bigger than a lawyer's inkstand, with a so-called fountain in the centre, squirting up the water in one long, thick thread, as if it were the nozzle of a fire-engine.

But such are the features only of the more important inns of court, as Lincoln's, and Gray's, and the Temple; but, in addition to these, there exists a large series of legal blind alleys, or yards, which are entitled "Inns of Chancery," and among which may be classed the lugubrious localities of Lyon's Inn and Barnard's ditto, and Clement's and Clifford's, and Sergeant's, and Staple, and the like. In some of these, one solitary, lanky-looking lamp-post is the only ornament in the centre of the back-yard like square, and the grass is seen struggling up between the interstices of the pavement, as if each paving-stone were trimmed with green *chenille*. In another you find the statue of a kneeling negro, holding a platter-like sun-dial over his head, and seeming, while doomed to tell the time, to be continually inquiring of the surrounding gentlemen in black, whether he is not "a man and a brother?" In another you observe crowds of lawyers' clerks, with their hands full of red-tape-tied papers, assembled outside the doors of new club-house-like buildings. Moreover, to nearly every one of these legal nooks and corners the entrance is through some archway or iron gate that has a high bar left standing in the middle, so as to obstruct the passage of any porter's load into the chancery sanctuary; and there is generally a little porter's lodge, not unlike a French *conciergerie*, adjoining the gate, about which loiter liveried street-keepers to the awe of little boys, who would otherwise be sure to dedicate the tranquil spots to the more innocent pursuit of marbles or leap-frog.

The various classes of law courts too have, one and all, some picturesque characteristics about them. For example, is not the atmosphere of Westminster Hall essentially distinct from that of the Old Bailey? During term time the Hall at Westminster (which is not unlike an empty railway terminus, with the exception that the rib-like rafters are of carved oak rather than iron,) is thronged with suitors and witnesses waiting for their cases to be heard, and pacing the Hall pavement the while, in rows of three or four, and with barristers here and