

Commons, judges and barristers will rise in their places and protest against additions to the bench. But facts and figures seem to be too strong even for those who think that driving suitors away from court by infinite delay is practically equivalent to the trial and decision of their causes. With 800 causes waiting to be heard, and with one Division of the Court of Appeal closed for seven weeks, it will require some courage to assert that it is not desirable to increase the number of judges. The policy of holding four criminal assizes in the legal year has fairly broken down the working power of the bench; and if the country still insists on that policy, it must take measures to remove the intolerable wrongs thereby inflicted on the suitors in our civil courts." In a recent number of *The Solicitors' Journal*, we find a communication from a solicitor, who spent one hour and three quarters awaiting his turn to procure a summons from the judge's clerks. First, he went into a line of fifteen or eighteen persons to procure the form of a summons from a clerk; second, he went into another line of twenty or twenty-five to procure the number and return and entry in the list from another; third, he went into line with about twenty to obtain from the first clerk the stamp. For all this he was entitled to charge 3s.

GENERAL NOTES.

AN EQUESTRIAN PROCESSION TO WESTMINSTER HALL.—His Lordship (Shaftsbury) had an early fancy, or rather freak, the first day of the term, (when all the officers of the law, king's counsel, and judges, used to wait upon the great seal to Westminster Hall,) to make this procession on horseback, as in the old time the way was, when coaches were not so rife. And accordingly the judges, &c. were spoken to to get horses, as they and all the rest did by borrowing and hiring, and so equipped themselves with black foot cloths in the best manner they could; and diverse of the nobility, as usual, in compliment and honor to a new lord chancellor, attended also in their equipments. Upon notice in town of this cavalcade, all the show company took their places at windows, and balconies, with the foot guard in the streets, to partake of the fine sight; and being once settled for the march, it moved, as the design was, stately along.

But when they came to straits and interruptions, for want of gravity in the beasts and too much in the riders, there happened some curvetting, which made no little disorder. Judge Twisden, to his great affright, and the consternation of his grave brethren, was laid along in the dirt; but all, at length, arrived safe without loss of life or limbs in the service. This accident was enough to divert the like frolic for the future, and the very next term after, they took to their coaches as before.—*Roger North's Examen*, p. 57.

THE MAN WITH THE DYING SPEECH.—When the vacancy occurred in the Exchequer Bench, which was afterwards filled by Mr. Adams, the Ministry could not agree among themselves whom to appoint. It was debated in council, the King, George II., being present; and the dispute growing very warm, His Majesty put an end to the contest by calling out, in his usual English, "I will have none of dese, give me de man wid de dying speech," meaning Adams, who was then Recorder of London, and whose business it therefore was to make the report of the convicts under sentence of death.—*Miss Hawkins' Memoirs*.

RECENT ENGLISH DECISIONS.

Accounts.—In a bill by principals against agents, to take accounts or rectify accounts already settled, the transactions extended over nearly 20 years, and many errors and overcharges were alleged. *Held*, that although the labor was enormous, it was a case for re-opening the accounts, and not merely one to "surcharge and falsify."—*Williamson v. Barbour*, 9 Ch. D. 529.

Advances.—By his will, made in 1864, a testator made his six children his residuary legatees, and provided that the sums which he had lent to his two sons should be deducted from the shares which they would be thereby entitled to. Subsequently he wrote to each of his sons, offering to write off part of the debt in each case, if the son would send him a promissory note for the balance. It did not appear that any notes were given. He died in 1874. *Held*, that in spite of the letters, the sons must bring the entire debts into hotchpot.—*Smith v. Conder*, 9 Ch. D. 170.

Assignment.—T. contracted with J. to build him a steam launch for £80, to be paid when the boat was done. J., however, advanced him