Canada Law Journal

Vot., XXXI.

APRIL 1, 1895.

No. 6

An English exchange tells us of the death of Mr. W. F. Finlason, who is described as one of the most interesting and attractive figures in modern legal life, a profoundly erudite lawyer and a prince among law reporters, possessing also great intellectual gifts. For a period of fifty years he acted as chief legal reporter of *The Times*, witnessing a great number of interesting changes in the administration of the law, and in the personnel of the Bench, acquiring, during this period, an enormous store of anecdotes, which he was wont to relate with great skill and effect. He contributed largely to legal literature, and was joint author of the Foster and Finlason Reports.

ONE of the many objections to the sensational tendency of modern journalism is its frequent interference in many ways with the administration of justice. Flagrant abuses of the power of the press occur from time to time, and are becoming more frequent and more glaring. This has been apparent in several cases of alleged murder during the past few months, notably in the Clara Ford and Hyams cases. We shall refer to one instance in connection with the latter. Two men were brought before the police magistrate of Toronto for the usual preliminary investigation. After a large number of witnesses had been examined. the magistrate decided that there was sufficient evidence to commit the prisoners for trial. The next day there appeared in a daily paper, in large letters, and conspicuous type, as a heading to the account of the proceedings in the Police Court, these words, "Wells was murdered," the obvious conclusion being that the men then charged were found guilty of murder. That, of course,