

LORD Chief Justice Clayton, an Englishman, was appointed to the King's Bench in Ireland. One day he remarked to Harwood, an Irish barrister, that numerous as the English laws were, one was found to be the key to the other. "Whereas here," he added, "it is just the contrary. Your laws are so continually clashing that, upon my word, at times I don't clearly understand them." "Very true my lord," said Harwood, "that's just what we all say about you."

*

A NEW YORK man pleaded in his petition for absolute divorce "that the defendant would not sew on his plaintiff's buttons, neither would she allow him to go to fires at night." The Court decided that the plaintiff was entitled to a decree on the ground that his oppression was cruel and inhuman.

*

A blacksmith of a village in Spain murdered a man and was condemned to be hanged. The chief peasants of the place joined together and begged the Alcade that the blacksmith might not suffer because he was necessary to the place, which could not do without a blacksmith to shoe horses, mend wheels and such offices. But the Alcade said, "How then can I carry out the law?" A labourer answered, "Sir, there are two lawyers in the village, and for so small a place one is enough! you may hang the other."—*Chicago Law Journal*.

*

IN a murder trial before a Western court, the prisoner was able to account for the whole of his time except five minutes on the evening when the crime was committed. His counsel argued that it was impossible for him to have killed

the man under the circumstances in so brief a period, and on that plea largely based his defence, the other testimony being strongly against his client. When the prosecuting attorney replied, he said: "How long a time really is five minutes? Let us see. Will his honor command absolute silence in the court room for that space?" The judge graciously complied. There was a clock on the wall. Every eye in the court room was fixed upon it as the pendulum ticked off the seconds. There was breathless silence. We all know how time that is waited for creeps and halts and at last does not seem to move at all. The keen-witted counsel waited until the tired audience gave a sigh of relief at the close of the period, and then asked quietly: "Could he not have struck one fatal blow in all that time?" The prisoner was found guilty, and, as it was proved afterwards, justly.—*Frank Harrison's Magazine*.

*

It was Mr. Justice Allan Parke who in latter years fell into a habit of thinking aloud. When trying an old woman for stealing faggots he was heard to mutter, "Why, one faggot is as like another faggot as one egg is like another egg." Counsel for the defence promptly repeated the remark to the jury, whereupon the judge, unconscious of the situation, burst in, "Stop! it is an intervention of Providence. That was the very thought that passed through my mind. Gentlemen (to the jury) acquit the prisoner."

*

CURRAN's ruling passion was his joke, and it was strong, if not in death, at least in his last illness. One morning his physician observed that he seemed to "cough with more difficulty." "That is rather surprising," answered Curran, "for