

EDITORIAL ITEMS.

bas," and that there was also "considerable abrasion of the cuticle." The Judge asked, "You mean, I suppose, that the man had a black eye." The witness answered "Yes," whereupon his lordship remarked, "they why not say so at once?"

Our valued correspondent at Halifax has sent us a judgment delivered by the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, on the "Insolvent Act of 1869." The point is doubtless of great importance in that Province, where judgments can be registered so as to bind lands in the same way as *was* the law in this Province. But owing to the very proper repeal of that law by our Legislature, the decision is not of importance here. The main question raised in the case was as to the right of a *bonâ fide* judgment creditor, as against an assignee in insolvency, where the judgment was duly registered in the proper office within thirty days of the defendant's assignment under the Insolvent Act. The Court held that as the judgment was duly registered the Act did not destroy the preference obtained by the judgment creditor.

From the *Irish Law Times*, we observe that the Lord Justice Christian has been from the Bench agitating the same question as that which was some time ago discussed in the columns of the Toronto papers touching the scope of the proper duties of the Chief Clerks in Chancery, who hold a position somewhat analogous to that occupied by the Judges' Secretary. The Lord Justice in rather unmeasured terms, but with true Irish *verve*, has denounced the practice of the judges delegating any portion of their judicial work to inferior officials. The Lord Justice's strictures, which have created immense and not altogether satisfactory excitement in the profession, will no doubt work a cure of the evil complained of. As will be remembered the difficulty in this Province

was overcome by the passing of an act of Parliament changing the name of "Secretary" to that of "Referee in Chambers," and defining the duties, which as *quasi* judge in Chambers he might properly undertake.

The *Saturday Review* has recently indulged in some very uncomplimentary remarks on the Bar in England. It says that there are few really good lawyers now at the Bar, and still fewer good speakers, and that the great run of lawyers are content to scramble on with mouthful of law picked up from day to day, as occasion requires, trusting to text books and luck for getting up the necessary information, when a call happens to be made for it. The common oratory of the Bar is said to be a deplorable exhibition, reaching a high average standard when it is just articulate, and does not too violently outrage the rudimentary laws of grammar. Of the judges even, it is said that there is hardly one, who, to say nothing of elevated thoughts and literary subtlety, can even turn a decent sentence. English writers *ought* to know something of English people, but it sometimes happens that they know as little about them as they do about affairs in the Colonies; we shall therefore charitably suppose that the writer in the "Reviler" was suffering from dyspepsia, or is one of the many thousand "briefless," as yet unknown to, or unappreciated by the lower branch of the profession, the employers and paymasters of those above them.

We recommend to the notice of our readers the scathing remarks in a recent number of the *Canadian Monthly* touching the scandalous observations of Mr. Caleb Cushing on Sir Alexander Cockburn, who dissented from the judgment of his colleagues in the Geneva arbitration. It is evidently written by one who knows our cousins well, and—appreciates them.