

## FLOTSAM AND JETSAM.

never bear to commit; but read them a severe lecture, and in extreme cases called out, "John, bring me my private gallows!" which infallibly brought the little urchins weeping on their knees, and "Oh! for God's sake, your honor, pray forgive us!" and his honor used graciously to pardon them for this time, and delay the arrival of the private gallows, and seldom had occasion to repeat the threat.—*The Irish Law Times.*

The authorship of the phrase *Fiat justitia, ruat cælum*, has been the subject of much controversy. It is supposed to have been first used by Lord Chief Justice Mansfield when he gave judgment reversing the outlawry of Wilkes. We have recently come across what we believe to be the earliest, if not the first, use of these memorable words in a pamphlet published in 1647, entitled "The Simple Clobber of Aggawam, in America," where it is said at p. 13, "It is less to say *Statuatur veritas, ruat regnum*, than *Fiat justitia, ruat cælum*."—*Athenæum.*

THE LAW OF NATIONS.—The recent meeting of the Association for the Reform and Codification of the Law of Nations, at Antwerp, was, notwithstanding the troubled condition of Europe by reason of the war between Russia and Turkey, in every sense of the word, a successful one. The opening address was delivered by Lord O'Hagan, who gave an interesting summary of the progress of the movement inaugurated by the society, and spoke flatteringly of the condition of the society and its future prospects. As the Association is of American origin, we feel in this country a very deep interest in its well being, and the statements made by Lord O'Hagan will be carefully read with pleasure by every one of us. It will be remembered that the idea of the Association was suggested by the Washington Treaty and the Geneva Arbitration; that, in consequence of the favour with which it was received by leading men in this country, Dr. Miles went to Europe to submit the project for such an association, and communicated with persons of learning, ability and position in various countries, who received him with respect, and advised an attempt at permanent organization. It was proposed to hold the first meeting in New York, but, as many who had actively favored the plan could not take a journey to that place, it was ultimately resolved that such meeting should be convened at Brussels, where it was held October 10, 1873. Four annual meetings have been since held, one at

Geneva, one at The Hague, one at Bremen, and the recent one at Antwerp. The growing strength of the Association is indicated by an increase in membership from ninety, when the meeting at The Hague was held in 1875, to five hundred and thirty at the time of the last gathering. These members are, as a rule, representative men of established reputation as jurists and politicians in the various civilized nations of the world. The attendance of Americans at the Antwerp conference was not as large as usual, which is perhaps not to be regretted. The representation of the English-speaking people has been heretofore disproportionately great. While it is true that Great Britain and the United States are at present more concerned than any other nation in the settlement of many international questions, the continental nations have also large interests in the matter, and should be allowed to take a more prominent part than they hitherto have in the direction and the discussions of a society that is designed for the benefit of the whole world.—*Albany Law Journal.*

## RECENT JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS.

As we go to press we learn that Mr. Justice Moss has been placed at the head of the Court of Appeal, Mr. Justice Morrison taking the vacant seat in that Court. Mr. J. D. Armour, Q.C., has been made a puisnè judge of the Court of Queen's Bench. It is a serious question whether it was desirable to place so young a man and a judge of such recent date as Mr. Moss, in the position rendered vacant by the death of Chief Justice Draper. It was thought by many, and we confess we inclined to that opinion, that for reasons which we have not space to enlarge upon, the appointment of the Chancellor might have been preferable; whilst the Court would undoubtedly have been much strengthened by the appointment of Mr. Hagarty as Chief, Mr. Moss retaining his present position. But of Mr. Moss's abilities there have never been two opinions, and in common with his many friends, we congratulate him upon the high position he has obtained. Mr. Armour is not so well known, but his legal acquirements and mental capacity are of a very high order, and his appointment is an excellent one.