

file . . . a list or statement and an affidavit," but what that statement and affidavit are to contain we defy anyone to make out. We can only suggest that the whole transaction should be stated with the most minute exactness, and that the affidavit after adopting the same language should quote the statute in full, and make the deponent swear that he has complied with its provisions—to the best of his information and belief.

By sec. 2 the Act is not to come into force until the first of August, and the County Court Clerks cannot therefore act under it until then ; but the luckless receipt-note holders have to file their list of transactions up to the first of August, within three months from the passing of the Act, or at latest the twenty-ninth of July.

Space and inclination to prosecute this enumeration of blunders fails us. There are plenty more of the same kind.

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The errors just referred to are the result of indifference and indolence, not of incapacity. When a direct purpose has to be served there is no more ambiguity than is necessary to hoodwink the members and get them to make laws without knowing what they are doing—a coating of sugar to get the pill down. The Attorney-General having been retained for the plaintiff in an important mechanics' lien case, and the affidavit not having been sworn in accordance with the statute, it was necessary to the success of the case that the Act should be amended to suit the affidavit ; and that the amendment should be made retrospective. A bill therefore was introduced, but the pill was uncoated and the House refused to swallow it, refused to allow pending litigation to be interfered with and inserted a clause making provision to that effect. Nothing daunted, another bill is introduced of a general, vague, uncertain character, providing that *any* affidavit required by *any* statute, &c., should, if sworn, &c., be valid and effectual. To insure success the pill was not inserted until the members had seen and handled the innocent looking object ; not until the confusion of committee