

EDITORIAL NOTES—SIR JOHN MELLOR'S FAREWELL.

pear to be rapidly on the increase. The *Irish Law Times* for June 21st, in a passage in which our remarks apropos of Mrs. Bella Lockwood are quoted, speaks of a case of *Fogarty v. Howard*, which recently came before the Master of the Rolls in Ireland. Here a lady appeared in person and conducted her own suit. She found, however, according to our contemporary, that, though she assumed a statement of claim could be written as easily "as a letter," it was as difficult for her to frame a proper one, as it would be, in the words of the learned Judge, for him to plait a straw hat. She, however, it seems, escaped more easily than Mrs. Bella Lockwood. But, perhaps, would-be ladies of the Black Robe will find their most favourable field in California. Referring to the admission of Mary Josephine Young, on May 13th, to practise as attorney and counsellor-at-law in the Supreme Court of California, the *Pacific Coast Law Journal* observes: "Mrs. Young is the wife of J. N. Young, a prominent attorney at Sacramento, and she has the honour of being the first woman in this State who has obtained a license to practise law from the Supreme Court. We are informed that she passed an exceedingly satisfactory examination, and is worthily entitled to the honours thus placed upon her, without partiality or undue gallantry. The problematic question of the success of female practitioners, it seems, will soon be practically settled." Although Pericles, who, in his Funeral Speech, tells the widows of the Athenians that "great is the glory of that woman who is least spoken of among men, either for good or for ill," would scarcely have approved of the admittance of women to practise in the Law Courts, yet it is, perhaps, hard to maintain that the fair sex would be out of place in the Temple of Justice.

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The retirement of Mr. Justice Mellor was the occasion of an interesting ceremony in the English Court of Queen's Bench on June 11th ult., when he took his leave of the bar. We read that, as the time appointed approached, the Court became extremely crowded. The front row was occupied by the leaders of the different circuits, while every corner of the court was filled by those barristers and others who could not obtain seats. All the judges were present, and the galleries were filled with the private friends of the retiring judge.

At about a quarter to four the Attorney-General, the Solicitor-General, and Sir Henry James entered the Court, and took their places, and after a pause of a few moments, the Attorney-General rose and addressed the bench in these terms: "My Lord, before the Court rises for the day, I desire to ask permission to address, on behalf of the bar, a few words to Mr. Justice Mellor." The Attorney-General then—the whole of the bar rising as a token of respect—delivered an eloquent farewell address to the learned judge. We have only space to quote his concluding remarks, in which he expressed the high appreciation which the bar had of the manner in which Sir John Mellor had discharged his judicial functions. They were as follows:—

"My Lord, in the judgment of those for whom I speak, you have set a pattern to the judges who have been your contemporaries, and to the judges who will sit in our Courts after you have gone from them, of the manner in which justice ought to be administered. In dealing with legal questions you have shown that you have sought the sources of the law, and have mastered the great principles upon which our laws are founded, and you have ever been anxious to base your decisions upon such principles, disregarding technicalities and