

THE CIRCUITEERS.

SCENE. *The Banks of Windermere. Sunset.*

ADDISON (1). SIR GREGORY LEWIN. (2).

- A. How sweet, fair Windermere, thy waveless coast!
'Tis like a goodly issue well engrossed.
- L. How sweet this harmony of earth and sky!
'Tis like a well-concerted *alibi*.
- A. Pleas of the Crown are coarse, and spoil one's tact,
Barren of fees and savoring of fact.
- L. Your pleas are cobwebs, narrower or wider,
That sometimes catch the fly, sometimes the spider.
- A. Come let us rest beside this prattling burn,
And sing of our respective trades in turn.
- L. Agreed! our song shall pierce the azure vault:
For Meade's (3) case proves, or my Report's in fault,
That singing can't be reckoned an assault.
- A. Who shall begin?
- L. That precious right, my friend,
I freely yield, nor care how late I end.
- A. Vast is the pleader's rapture, when he sees
The classical endorsement—"Please draw pleas."
- L. Dear are the words—I ne'er can read them frigidly—
"We have no case, but cross-examine rigidly."
- A. Blackhurst (4) is coy, but sometimes has been won
To scratch out "Hoggins (5)" and write "Addison."
- L. Me Jackson (6) oft deludes; on me he rolls
Fiendlike his eye, then chucks his brief to Knowles (7).
- A. What fears, what hopes through all my frame did shoot
When Frodsham's breeches, Gilbert, felt thy boot (8)!
- L. O! all ye jail-birds, 'twas a day of sulks
When Roger Whitehead fitted to the hulks.

(1) A special pleader.

(2) A criminal lawyer and reporter of Lewin's Crown Cases.

(3) Meade and Belt's case. 1 Lewin, C. C. 184, per Holroyd, J.: "No words or singing are equivalent to an assault."

(4) An attorney of Preston.

(5) Hoggins, a barrister in the Northern Circuit; afterwards a queen's counsel.

(6) An attorney.

(7) C. J. Knowles, on the Northern Circuit; afterwards a queen's counsel.

(8) Frodsham, an attorney, was summarily ejected by Gilbert Henderson, recorder of Liverpool, from his chambers for some offensive words used by him during an arbitration. Afterwards Frodsham sued Henderson for damages for the assault. His counsel was Sergeant Cross. John Williams, afterwards a judge of the Court of Queen's Bench, led for the defence, and concluded his speech to the jury by saying: "I vow to God, gen-

- A. Thoughts much too deep for tears subdue the court
When I *assumpsit* bring, and god-like waive a tort.
- L. When witnesses, like swarms of summer flies,
I call to character, and none replies,
Dark Attridge (9) gives a grunt, the gentle bailiff sighs.
- A. A pleading fashioned of the moon's pale shine
I love, that makes a youngster new-assign.
- L. I love to put a farmer in a funk,
Then make the galleries believe he's drunk.
- A. Answer, and you my oracle shall be,
How a sham differs from a real plea?
- L. Tell me the difference first, 'tis thought immense,
Betwixt a naked lie and false pretence.
Now let us gifts exchange; a timely gift is often found no despicable thrift.
- A. Take these, well worthy of the Roxburgh Club,
Eleven counts struck out in Gobble *versus* Grubb.
- L. Let this within thy pigeon-holes be packed.
A choice conviction of the Bum-boat act. (10)
- A. I give this penknife-case, since giving thrives;
It holds ten knives, ten hafts, ten blades, ten other knives.
- L. Take this bank-note (the gift won't be my ruin),
'Twas forged by Dade and Kirkwood; see first Lewin (11).
- A. Change we the *venue*, Knight; your tones bewitch,
But too much pudding chokes, however rich,
Enough's enough, and surplusage the rest.
The sun no more *gives color* to the west,
And one by one the pleasure-boats forsake
Yon land with water covered, called a lake.
'Tis supper-time; the sun is somewhat far,
Dense are the dews, though bright the evening star;
And Wightman (12) might drop in and eat our char (13).

tlemen, I should have done the same thing myself—an insult—a kick—and a farthing—all the world over!" The jury accordingly found for the plaintiff with one farthing damages. Cross tied up his papers and remarked: "My client has got more kicks than half-pence." But it was always a matter of doubt whether he knew he was saying a good thing or not. He had never before said anything to provoke such a suspicion.

(9) Sir Gregory Lewin's clerk.

(10) 2 Geo. III. ch. 28. "An act to prevent the committing of thefts and frauds by persons navigating bum-boats and other boats upon the River Thames," Rep. 2 & 3 Vict. ch. 47, § 24.

(11) 1 Lewin, C. C. 141.

(12) Afterwards a judge of the Court of Queen's Bench.

(13) These lines are by J. L. Adolphus, the well-known reporter.