

## The Legal News.

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### USELESS PROLIXITY.

It is a little singular that the needless and troublesome verbosity, which so long characterized English forms, still clings to the conveyancing of so progressive a state as New York. A New York conveyancer, in a letter to a contemporary, points out the magnitude of the evil. "On all transfers of real estate," he says, "a serious charge is incurred for the recording of the ponderous, verbose and tautological formulas which are used in our deeds and mortgages, and which have nothing to justify them but their antiquity. It is not too much to say that if any one of our competent lawyers were himself buying or lending money on real estate, he would have no hesitation in adopting a form of conveyance compressed in its language to one-tenth the length of the forms now in general use." The same writer adds: "It is believed that nowhere outside of the city of New York is to be found this ridiculous adherence to the antiquated forms of conveyance which prevailed in Great Britain before the era of legal reform in that country. Everywhere but in this city and vicinity, conveyances are simple in form, and fully protect the rights of parties under them. 'A warranty deed with full covenants,' so dear to the New York lawyer, contains a wilderness of words which is unknown elsewhere. The unseemly length of these conveyances calls for immediate reform, and the Bar Association of New York could not engage in a better or more useful work than in giving full ventilation to the subject. The good sense of the legal reformers in England, nearly a half century ago, found a simple way of ridding themselves of this same evil; they boldly cut the Gordian knot, and framed a deed and mortgage, which it was declared should have the same effect as if they had contained all the old cumbrous phraseology then in use. A similar course pursued here in the enactment of a proper statute by the Legislature would leave the old lawyer without an excuse, compel him to give up the cherished idols of the

past, his persistent worship of which has been at so large a cost. A reform like this would greatly reduce the fees in the offices of the County Clerk and Register, and render them less attractive to the politician."

In the Province of Quebec, the cadastral system has done something to shorten deeds of conveyance and mortgage; but 'we cannot truthfully pretend that our forms are as simple as they might be. A great deal of useless verbiage still clings to them, and not only adds unnecessarily to the expense, but retards the registration of the documents.

### SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

The 22nd annual congress of the British Social Science Association was appointed to be held at Cheltenham, from Oct. 23 to Oct. 30, under the presidency of the Right Hon. Lord Norton, K. C. M. G. In the department of "Jurisprudence and amendment to the law," the following special questions were to be considered:—"1. The codification of the criminal law, with special reference to the Attorney-General's Bill; 2. Simplification of the evidence of title to real property by record of title or otherwise; 3. Whether the extinction of all customary and other special tenures and the limitation of the leasehold terms are not desirable; 4. Should the summary jurisdiction of magistrates be further extended? 5. The consideration of the proceedings of the Stockholm International Prison Congress."

### AIDS TO THE VOICE.

Mr. Gladstone is noted for the attention which he pays to his voluminous correspondence, and for the freedom with which, in his replies, he expresses opinions on a great multiplicity of subjects. One of his latest epistolary efforts refers to the management of the voice in public speaking. The remarks of the ex-Premier on this subject are of a practical turn and may be of service to some of our younger readers. In acknowledging the receipt of Dr. Shuldham's recent treatise on "clergyman's sore throat," Mr. Gladstone says:—"No part of your work surprised me more than your account of the various expedients resorted to by eminent singers. There, if anywhere, we might have anti-