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Co-incident with the assumption by the United States of its responsibilities as one of the great nations of the world comes to the Judges of the New York Supreme Court the propriety of braving democratic sentiment by donning a proper Court costume of black silk gowns. We trust that their brethren in other States will follow this good example. It is the right thing to do, and the custom should never have been discarded. Our young cousins south of us are getting on nicely. When they have taken some other nation in hand, and acquired a few more foreign possessions, we shall expect to see their judges robed in ermine instead of black silk.

Literary laymen have been wont to gird at us in the past for the prosaic methods of our treatise writers. Mr. Beven, in the second edition of his work on "Negligence," did somewhat to remove his craft from the charge of lack of rhetorical glamor, and gave us much pedantry where he should have given us law, or stayed his hand. Now we have Mr. F. T. Piggott following in his aberrant wake ("Two Chapters of the Law of Torts"), and making "sad-browed Astræa" the uncongenial patroness of not only what Ruskin contemptuously calls "fine writing," but also mere levity. We do not imply that Mr. Piggott fails to enunciate any sound law in his new book; but we do venture to say that the practical lawyer is offended, and justly so, when he finds the sober principles of his science overlaid with a bizarre and jocular literary method. Facetiousness has a place on the lawyer's bookshelves; but it is not usually looked for in his text-books and treatises.

The freedom with which the English legal journals criticise the judiciary may be exemplified by the castigation of Mr. Justice Ridley in a recent number of *The Law Journal*. After referring to his observations to the jury in summing up in a case, where a prisoner