they might find a place in every lawyer's library. We make the suggestion, let some bencher immortalize himself by working out the scheme practically.

The Court of Error and Appeal at its last sittings (15th March, 1875), gave judgment in *Herbert* v. *Parker*, in appeal from the Common Pleas, allowing the appeal, *and that with costs*. His Lordship, Mr. Justice Strong, said that this was the first case in which that Court had so disposed of the costs. It was, however, a course which had been adopted in the Court of Chancery and had long been in force in the Privy Council—the Supreme Court of Appeal in all Colonial causes. He was glad that the Court had seen fit to adopt this rule, which proceeded on the fair and equitable principle that the party succeeding in litigation should, in ordinary circumstances be awarded all his costs. The Chief Justice and the other Judges concurred. The anomaly to which we called attention on a former occasion (vol. 9, p. 306) has thus been removed and the practice of the highest Court in this Province is now in accord with all the other Courts upon the question of costs in appeal.

PATENTS OF INVENTION.

Nine years ago we discussed this subject, urging many weighty reasons in favour of an alteration in the Patent Laws in the direction of their repeal. In this matter, as we flatter ourselves in many others, we have been a little ahead of the age.

It is a question which is becoming more and more debated, and especially in England, whether, in the interests of manufacturers, of inventors themselves and of the community generally, patent laws should exist. The system of granting patent rights to inventors is purely artificial, and is the last vestige of the monopolies which became so great an evil in the days of James I. and Elizabeth. The day is probably not far distant when the question will be decided in England against the continuation of patents. Public opinion is not considered yet ripe for the change, and in the meantime the Lord Chancellor, who agrees with Lords Selborne, Hatherley, Derby, Granville, and other eminent persons in condemning patents altogether, has brought in a bill for the amendment of the present laws. The main purpose of the bill is to diminish the number of worthless and insignificant patents which are constantly issued. It is proposed to accomplish this by the creation of a Board of Examiners, selected from persons experienced in the various branches of art and manufacture, whose duty it shall be to take care that so-called inventions of no value shall not obtain the protection of a patent grant. The injury done to the manufacturing interests by the grant of patents for pretended inventions or improvements, by which manufacturers are met and hampered at every step, is obvious.

In our own country manufactures are in their infancy, and the evil is not so seriously felt and so heartily condemned. But a glance at some of the periodical lists of patents granted at Ottawa, and a very slight experience on the subject, will convince anyone that we are not behind England or the United States in the liberality with which we encourage monomaniacs to waste their time and means in pursuits which are about as profitable as the attempts to discover perpetual motion, or to square the circle. Sooner or later we shall probably find it beneficial to follow the example of England in improving the law relating to patents.