

punish. We, so far as our laws are concerned, do not regard it as a wrong at all, though the average unsophisticated man regards it not only as a wrong, but as a very great wrong, indeed. The inconveniences and worse which arise from this condition of things are patent: they increase day by day. The political world, growing more democratic, more and more resounds with contumelious phrases. Are vituperators and insulters to enjoy complete license, or should insulted persons chastise the wrong-doer, and what view should judges and juries take of such chastisement? On the other hand, the insulted person may be physically weak and unable to chastise the insulter. Is it possible that in course of time some enactment resembling the Brehon code in that respect may be made, with the consent of all parties, which shall arrest this flow of insulting and degrading language, which bids fair to repel self-respecting men from taking part in public life? The difficulties are, no doubt, great, but then the evil which we seek to abate is greater. History, too, supplies precedents enough: for courts of honour have been set up in many countries.—*Irish Law Times.*

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LEGAL ASPECT OF THE HOME RULE BILL.—The constitutional difficulties in the way of the new Home Rule Bill tend to increase rather than to diminish now that the actual text of the measure is before us. Take the provisions relating to the Irish judges, on whose position under the bill we commented by anticipation last week. The Exchequer judges are to have jurisdiction, *inter alia*, over all legal proceedings which touch any matter not within the powers of the Irish Legislature, or affected by any law which the Irish Legislature have not power to repeal or alter. If a decree pronounced by one of the judges is unpopular—and there is no rashness in predicting that, even under the Home Rule Bill, offences must come—how is it to be enforced? The sheriffs and the constabulary are subject to the control of the Irish executive, representing, *ex hypothesi*, the popular party opposed to the judge's decree; will they be ready, or, if ready, will they be permitted to carry it into effect? Curiously enough, the draughtsman of the bill has foreseen this contingency, and has endeavoured to meet it. "If it is made to appear to an Exchequer judge," the bill provides, "that any decree or judgment in any such