

BEFORE a Western judge a lawyer was pleading a case, and was making a regular red-fire-and-slow-curtain speech, which stirred the jury to its profoundest depths. In the course of his peroration he said:—

"And, gentlemen of the jury, as I stand at this bar to-day in behalf of a prisoner whose health is such that at any moment he may be called before a greater Judge than the judge of this court, I—"

The judge on the bench rapped sharply on the desk, and the lawyer stopped suddenly and looked at him questioningly.

"The gentleman," said the Court, with dignity, "will please confine himself to the case before the jury and not permit himself to indulge in invidious comparisons."

It almost took the attorney's breath away, but he managed to pull himself together and finish in pretty fair shape.

*

THE new Recorder of the City of New York, on the first day of his beginning his term, was reported as having reproved a young lawyer for indulging in extraneous pleasantries. He might be reminded of Lord Chief Justice Earle—in office in England thirty years ago—who said to a counsel who apologized for a sally of wit that disturbed the court-room with laughter: "The Court is very much obliged to any learned gentleman who beguiles the tedium of a legal argument with a little honest hilarity."

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