
OUR FLAG AT OSGOODE HALL.

Few people passing, or entering, Osgoode Hall, the legal temple of Ontario, can fail to notice the flag that floats over the building. We have all heard of "The flag that braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze," but few realized until now that it had actually come into the possession of the Law Society of Upper Canada; but, judging from the extremely dirty and dilapidated condition of the rag which is hoisted over Osgoode Hall, it may not be unfairly concluded that its woe-begone appearance is due to its extreme age, and the battles and breezes through which it has passed, and it must indeed be the veritable bunting of which the poet sang. As a relic of the past it is no doubt extremely curious and interesting from the archaeological standpoint. But we fear there are few among the general public who are capable of taking this high view, and in their irreverent and unarchæological minds the thought will arise, "If the Law Society or the Government of Ontario cannot afford to display a more respectable specimen of the flag we all honour than that miserable rag, it would be better to have none at all."

The subject of capital punishment is one that crops up from time to time. Humanitarians, who, like the Humanitarian League in England, which is urging the abolishment of flogging as a punishment, urge that the death penalty should be abolished. We are of the old fashioned sort that think it should be retained. In the United States it has ceased in Michigan, Wisconsin, Rhode Island and Kansas. It was abolished for a period and then reinstated in Colorado, New York and Ohio; but properly enough it is inflicted only, as here, for the most serious offences, most usually for murder. A discussion of the subject is given in a recent number of the *American Law Review*, from which we make some extracts, to be found in another place.