

## EDITORIAL ITEMS.

vacancies. It is impossible to discuss a measure which is, for the public at least, in so indefinite a shape, and we should suggest the advisability of taking the profession into confidence, by making public the proposed changes in good time. Every safeguard of this kind, in cases where it is proper to be done, is of advantage when we see the rapidity with which important measures are rushed through the House. We do not mean that this is done with any desire to prevent discussion, as it is, to a great extent, due to the fact that we have no second Chamber. It is easier to change to the new, than to come back to the old, if the new does not answer; and the maxim, "make haste slowly," is of especial application in matters affecting legal procedure.

At the first annual dinner of the Chicago Bar Association, recently celebrated, and whereof an elaborate account is given in the *Chicago Legal News*, one of the toasts propounded was "Our Clients," coupled with the following sentiment:

"The Scriptures assure us much may be forgiven  
To flesh and to blood by the mercy of Heaven;  
But we've searched all the books, and texts we find none,  
That pardon the man whom his attorney must dun."

This sentiment is expressed with more force than fluency, and we object to it on the ground taken in the old warning—"ne lude cum sacris." Upon the whole, we prefer the neat way (the antithesis of the above) in which Mr. Justice Maule put it, in a case before him in which an attorney's bill was sued upon. Counsel for the defence stigmatized the bill as "*a diabolical one*." "That may be," said the Judge; "but the devil must have his due. Gentlemen of the jury, you will find for the plaintiff."

The following advertisement appears in an English periodical having a large circulation amongst country gentlemen in

England, and a copy has been sent to us by a friend. Several professional men have also called our attention to it as highly objectionable:

"CANADA.—Farms for sale. Investments made and examined. Persons thinking of settling in Canada can hear of good farms by applying to ———, Barristers, Toronto. Investments returning 8 per cent. per annum, on first-class security, can be made through them. Investments already made can be examined and reported on."

If this firm had called themselves *solicitors*, as they are in fact as well as barristers, the advertisement would not be open to the same criticism as it now is. The advertisers must surely be aware that *barristers* have nothing to do with a land agency business, though *solicitors* may properly sell lands for clients when so required, and advertise any lands that may be placed in their hands for that purpose. It is not usual, however, and most *solicitors* would be averse to putting their names to an advertisement couched in these general terms, and which one would expect to see signed by a land agent pure and simple. In the same way it was very properly thought objectionable for a barrister (as was done here some years ago), to advertise coals for sale, though circumstances *might* have arisen that would have made it competent for a *solicitor* to advertise the fact that he had to sell even coals on behalf of a client. We are not to *presume* that the word "Barristers" was used to convey an impression to the readers of the periodical in which the advertisement appeared (in a country where Barristers are never Solicitors, and where the former are in a higher grade than the latter,) that there was more reliance to be placed in them because they are Barristers; thus as it were, using the word to convey a wrong impression. At the same time the use of the word in that connection has properly been objected to by members of the Bar, and cer-