

CORRESPONDENCE—FLOTSAM AND JETSAM.

suggestion, viz.: By providing that the enquiries from the beginning to the end shall be conducted before the same judge, who could hear the motion (and nip many of the suits now needlessly instituted in the bud), and with the assistance of one or more clerks, determine upon the rights of parties, hear the evidence in support of creditors' claims, and by one order settle the rights of the parties and distribute the fund, and thus save months and dollars. The judge, with the assistance referred to, could settle the order, advertise for creditors, &c., and thus cut off appeals, cross-appeals, hearings on further directions, subsequent reports, &c., &c.; and moreover, such a procedure, I contend, would be an immense saving both of time and labour to the judges and profession. If the suit from its inception to conclusion were conducted before the same judge, he would be familiar with its details; and he would, without the expense and trouble now necessary, from his being familiar with the proceedings, be able at once, without a recital of former steps, to determine the question raised.

To the bewildered suitor it must appear inexplicable, why, to wind up an ordinary estate, it should require the intervention of so many officials, be attended with such great expense, and take so many months.

To the effectual working of the system proposed, of course other changes are necessary, to which I will refer in a subsequent letter. Some of these have been touched upon in an able letter which recently appeared in a city daily paper.

A good deal more may be said also upon other subjects requiring the attention of the profession and legislators, such as the question of the assimilation of pleadings to the effectual working of fusion; the propriety of permitting parties to go at once to appeal instead of being compelled to re-hear; as to the propriety of making the county court judges in the smaller counties Masters; of having chambers held as heretofore by the judges, &c.; but these I will reserve for a future number of your journal. I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.,

REFORM.

May 26, 1875.

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A fire broke out in the Advocate's Library at Edinburgh recently, and before the flames were got under, about a thousand volumes, principally geographical and historical, were destroyed. The fire is thought to have originated from a furnace used for heating water.

They propose to introduce a little more ceremony into the New York Court of Appeals. The *Albany Law Journal* says:—"The members of the Bar practicing in the Court of Appeals have adopted a resolution, that on the entrance of the Judges the fact shall be announced by the crier, and the lawyers present shall rise and remain standing until the Judges are seated. This is intended as a mark of respect to the Judges and of veneration for justice. This is an excellent step, and commends itself to all who desire to invest the administration of justice in this country with due dignity. The Judges of the Supreme Court of the United States are announced by the crier, and the lawyers, officers, and spectators rise and remain standing until the Judges are seated. The Judges of this Court also wear robes of black silk while discharging their duties. It would not be unbecoming for the Judges of the Court of Appeals to adopt a similar custom in regard to their habiliments. There is, of course, a prejudice in this country against anything approaching the pomp and ceremony of foreign tribunals. But there is no place in the world where ceremonial dignity should be observed more than in the halls of justice; and this irrespective of country or form of government."

THE LAW AND THE LAWYERS.—Mr. Justice Denman attained the object of his highest ambition when he was raised to the Bench, but having thus far succeeded he seems disposed to over-estimate his own importance, and to strain the law to preserve what he imagines to be the offended dignity of justice. Only a little while since he was heard to invoke the name of the Almighty in an Assize Court, for the purpose of expressing his astonishment that a lout in the gallery should titter at some evidence not altogether decent. He has now called into operation the censorial powers of the member for Londonderry, by committing a person for twelve months for contempt of court under circumstances which certainly justified judicial condemnation, but which were not so extraordinary as to require the severe exercise of arbitrary power, and if there were many Judges on the bench of Mr. Justice Denman's disposition, we should say that judicial power in this