

The Legal News.

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The present Supreme Court of Tennessee have beaten the record for rapid adjudications. It appears that the roll of the Court was greatly obstructed by a long list of causes, and the result of popular feeling was the election of a bench pledged to clear the docket. In two years, it is said, the new judges have decided over two thousand cases. They achieved this gigantic labour by limiting argument to fifteen minutes, by writing opinions only on questions of special importance, and by disposing *instantly* of a great many cases. Doubtless, a good deal of bad law and inaccurate appreciation of facts is inseparable from this rough and ready system, but the suitors who come after, and find the door to justice unobstructed, will reap some benefit from it.

The candidates for the presidency and vice-presidency are all lawyers, with one exception. Mr. Cleveland practised in Buffalo, but was not specially distinguished. Mr. Thurman, who is on the ticket with him, held a higher place at the bar, and was for four years a justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio. Mr. Harrison, the Republican candidate for the presidency, is a veteran practitioner, and was at one time reporter to the Supreme Court of Indiana. His associate on the ticket, Mr. Morton, is a banker in New York.

An anecdote, related by the *Buffalo Express*, of Cleveland when he was practising law in that city, will be appreciated by a good many of his professional brethren. Among the friends of the present occupant of the White House was a bright fellow, but with the bump of laziness abnormally developed. He was not a well-read lawyer, and whenever it was necessary for him to use a decision bearing on any point it was his habit to lounge into Cleveland's office and casually worm the desired information out of his friend's mental storehouse. The latter was

not so dull as not to appreciate the fact and to resent the sponging—not so much because the process was worthy of that name as because he wished to spur his friend on to more energetic work. One day the friend came in on his usual errand, and when Cleveland had heard the preliminaries usual to the pumping process, the latter told his questioner that he had given him all the information on law matters that he was going to impart. "There are my books," said Cleveland, "and you're quite welcome to use them. You can read up your own cases." "See here, Grover Cleveland," said the friend, "I want you to understand that I don't read law. I practice entirely by ear, and you and your books can go to thunder."

President Cleveland, in his letter of acceptance, depicts in very forcible terms the dangers of the enormous surplus which has accumulated in the treasury. An infinitesimal fraction of this troublesome surplus might be usefully and honorably employed in increasing the salaries of some of the underpaid judges of the great republic, beginning with the Supreme Court.

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

LONDON, July 26, 1888.

Present:—THE EARL OF SELBORNE, LORD WATSON, LORD HOHOUSE, SIR BARNES PEACOCK.

ALLAN et al (defendants), Appellants, and PRATT (plaintiff), Respondent.

Appeal to Privy Council—C. C. P. Art. 1178
—*Jurisdiction*—*How determined as to Amount.*

HELD:—*That in determining whether an appeal lies to Her Majesty in Her Privy Council from a judgment of the Court of Queen's Bench, the judgment is to be looked at as it affects the interests of the party who is prejudiced by it, and who seeks to relieve himself from it by appeal; and so, where the appeal was by the defendant from a judgment condemning him to pay \$1,100 damages, it was held that the appeal was incompetent, though the amount demanded*