

lows: "In order to justify an inference of legal guilt from circumstantial evidence, the exculpatory facts must be absolutely incompatible with the innocence of the accused. What does that convey to your mind?"

It is well known that questions such as the above are prepared prior to the trial in accordance with the decisions of the Courts in similar cases. Such a course was pursued in the recent Fleming trial, and in which some questions were very lengthy, and were successfully used in the bowling out of panel after panel of average jurymen.—*Criminal Law Magazine*.

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Editing Law Books by Altering the Texts of the Authors.

Irving Browne, in the *Green Bag*, comments unfavorably upon the liberty which Mr. G. Pitt Lewis, Q.C., has taken with the text of "Taylor on Evidence," in his recent revision of that celebrated work. Mr. Lewis has, according to his own statement in his preface, remorselessly pruned all exuberance of expression; in some cases, it may be at a sacrifice of style and rhetorical effect. The editor of the *Law Journal* (London) approves of this way of dealing with the texts of deceased legal authors, and speaks of it as "worthy of praise." Mr. Browne very justly dissents from this view, and cannot imagine that there will be any demand, at least in this country, for "Lewis's Taylor." And this distinguished teetotaller will find himself in a numerous company on this side of the water in his declared preference for "our Taylor straight."—From *American Law Review*.

Waste of Time in Courts.

That in the Court of Illinois mere procedure decisions make up 47 per cent. of all, leaving but 53 per cent. of decisions dealing with the merits of causes, is a striking presentation of the need for reform in legal procedure. Attention has been called to this need time and again, yet Illinois still clings to the same old methods, under which it is difficult to have the attention of the Court centered on the real issue between the contending parties.

The time is ripe for a change. Success ought to attend a combined effort to secure remedial legislation from the next General Assembly.—From *Chicago Law Journal Weekly*.

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Vacation Dream.

So now my vacation is over;
Oh, why did I wander to where
I lived not in peace or in clover,
Nor enjoyed a stray smile from
the fair?

The stars glitter bright in the heavens,
Rich odors are borne on the breeze;
But, oh, for a breath of replevin,
Or a glimpse of the basest of fees!

No widow will have me, or spinster,
'Tis my "want of appearance"
no doubt;
But in Melbourne or stately Westminster,
That would bring an "attachment" about.

So bring me my reckoning, waiter;
Call a hansom and take me away