

article is not to be blamed. There are none." This is oracular, but, like many other oracular utterances, not well founded. In vol. 46, page 83, of this journal, are to be found citations from Hyde, J., Raymond, C.J., Kenyon, C.J., Hardwicke, L.C., Patteson, J., Kelly, C.B., and Harrison, C.J., all affirming the proposition that Christianity is a part of the law of the land: and, on page 82, there are citations from Bracton, which can have no other meaning. To describe Bracton and the above array of learned judges as of "no authority" seems to savour of the confidence of youth, but not of matured experience. The writer's *ipse dixit* reminds us of a favourite aphorism of the late Sir John Hagarty: "We are none of us infallible, not even the youngest barrister." Perhaps, in spite of the off-hand judgment of our learned friend, the mighty may survive his criticism.

#### LAW OFFICERS OF CROWN AS CABINET MINISTERS.

The *Law Times* thus refers to the retirement of the late Attorney-General of England:—"Owing to a disagreement on a question of policy, Sir Edward Carson has retired from the Cabinet. We trust that the precedent created in the case of Lord Reading, and continued in the cases of successive Attorneys-General, will not be resorted to in the future. The proper place for the Law officers of the Crown is outside the Cabinet, and their proper duties are to advise the Government in legal matters. A combination of the positions of Cabinet Minister and Law officer makes for efficiency in neither place, and the opinions of a Law officer would certainly carry more weight when he is advising the Cabinet not as a colleague, but purely and simply as legal adviser. Similar views are expressed in the *Solicitors' Journal*.

It is stated by Todd, writing in 1887, that in England an Attorney-General is never admitted to the Cabinet. Lord Reading, however, more recently, when Attorney-General was made a Cabinet Minister. Since Bacon's time an Attorney-General had not been sworn in as a member of the Privy Council until Sir Robert Finlay was appointed a member of that body.