

of these two wills a paper sewed to the first page, stating that she (the testatrix) wished that to be considered her true will, whatever subsequent one she might in the feebleness of age be influenced to make. On this document, which has three signatures, the niece relies. The genuineness of these signatures is denied, the allegation being that they were traced from the signatures of the original will. The three signatures on the attached paper are found on examination to coincide with mathematical exactness, not only line for line, letter for letter, but each having exactly the same slant towards the base of the sheet. It was proved that a remarkable similarity existed between all Miss Howland's signatures.—The most curious testimony in the case is that of the recently appointed Superintendent of the Coast Survey, the celebrated mathematical professor at Harvard, who applied to the matter the law of probabilities. Having ascertained the relative frequency of coincidence by comparing many of Miss Howland's signatures, he computed that in her case the phenomena of three absolutely identical signatures "could occur only once in 2,666,000,000,000,000 times." In conclusion, Professor Pierce stated, "Under a solemn sense of the the responsibility involved in the assertion, I declare that the coincidence which has here occurred, must have had its origin in an intention to produce it."

A correspondent has sent to the *Pall-Mall Gazette* the following story in illustration of this question of identity of signature:

"Some years ago a gentleman was sued by one of his friends before the Civil Court in Rome on a promissory note. The defendant pleaded that the signature was a forgery. The judge desired one of the attendants to summon Toto, a well known scribe, who earned his livelihood by writing letters for peasants and making out petitions for alms asked by some of his neighbors from the judge and other wealthy persons. Toto was desired to turn expert and help the judge to ascertain the truth of the defendant's plea. The plaintiff had brought with him an unquestionable signature of the defendant's attached to a letter, and the case was adjourned until Toto could make his report next morning. Without any hesitation he said: 'If the court will lay the promissory note upon the letter it will be found that the two signatures cover point for point the same

space, and as it is impossible for any man who writes freely to make two signatures so perfectly identical, I am sure that the promissory note was not signed by the defendant, but that his signature was traced from his letter.' The judge at once decided in favor of the defendant."

COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH.—APPEAL SIDE.—RESERVED CASES.—*Regula Generalis*. June 1st, 1867. It is ordered that the clerk of this Court, immediately upon the receipt of the papers transmitted, in a case reserved for the opinion of this Court, shall set down such case for hearing on the first juridical day of the then next ensuing term.

WRITS OF ERROR.—*Regula Generalis*.—June 1st. It is ordered that the plaintiff in error in all criminal cases shall file an assignment of errors on the first juridical day after the day of the return of the said writ.—That the joinder in error shall be filed on the first juridical day following the filing of the assignment of errors. That the clerk of this Court on receiving the joinder in error, shall forthwith set down the cause to be heard on the errors assigned.

APPOINTMENTS.

JOSEPH ELLIOTT, Esq., to be Assistant Treasurer of the Province of Quebec. (Gazetted 26th October, 1867.)

JEAN BAPTISTE MEILLEUR, Esq., M. D., to be Deputy Registrar of the Province of Quebec. (Gazetted 26th of October, 1867.)

GEORGE BOUCHER de BOUCHERVILLE, Esq., Advocate, to be Clerk, Master in Chancery and Accountant of the Legislative Council of the Province of Quebec. (Gazetted Nov. 2, 1867.)

PIERRE LEGARÉ, Esq., Advocate and Queen's Counsel, to be Assistant Clerk, Master in Chancery, French translator, and Assistant Accountant of the Legislative Council of the Province of Quebec. (Gazetted Nov. 2, 1867.)

SIMÉON LESAGE, Esq., Advocate, of Montreal, to be Assistant Commissioner of Public Works and of Colonisation. (Gazetted Nov. 2, 1867.)