

his release next morning the fortunate young man found that the judge and sheriff had between them provided a wedding-ring, a carriage to convey the couple from the church, and marriage fees, and the wedding took place next day.

**THE BARBED-WIRE FENCES BILL.**—The language of this bill affords a curious illustration of the purposeless looseness of expression which may sometimes be found in Acts of Parliament. It is too clear for argument that a fence made of barbed wire which is dangerous to persons lawfully using a highway is a nuisance at common law. It may be the subject-matter of an indictment, or of an action by any person sustaining particular damage by reason of it. If authority were necessary for this proposition, the case of *Stewart v. Wright*, decided on May 30 by Mr. Justice Mathew and Mr. Justice Wright, is enough. The bill without creating any new liability, enables a local authority to require and enforce the removal of such fences in a summary way. The language in the body of the bill rightly refers to land adjoining a 'highway,' and to persons or animals properly using such 'highway.' The marginal note, however, refers to the removal of barbed wire from 'public thoroughfares,' though a highway need not be a thoroughfare, and barbed wire is surely neither more nor less dangerous in a *cul-de-sac*. The title of the bill further amplifies the expression into 'roads, streets, lanes, and other thoroughfares!' Roads, streets, and lanes are not necessarily thoroughfares, and the bill has no application to roads, streets, or lanes unless they are highways. The only operative word in the bill is 'highway.' That term is clear, simple, and sufficient. These eccentric rhetorical variations are not only useless, but embarrassing.—*Law Journal* (London).

**THE DEATH SENTENCES OF NINE YEARS.**—A return just issued shows that during the years 1884-92, inclusive, 256 persons were sentenced to death for the crime of murder in England and Wales. Of these, 145 were executed in due course; one was pardoned; in ninety-five cases the sentence was commuted to penal servitude for life; eight were removed to Broadmoor, having been certified to be insane; and in seven cases the prisoners were let off with minor terms of penal servitude.