

## The Legal News.

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The Judicial Committee loses one of its active members in the Right Hon. Robert P. Collier, Baron Monkswell, who died Oct. 27, aged 69. Lord Monkswell sat in a great many appeals from Canada, and was favorably known to the bar as a painstaking and accomplished judge. A notice of his career will be found in the present issue.

The bar of the Quebec section have also held a meeting with reference to the compulsory assessment for an official law report, and have passed a resolution disapproving of it. The meeting went further, and found fault with the regulations allowing a salary to the Secretary-Treasurer of the General Council, and fees to the examiners,—work which formerly was performed gratuitously. In the face of the general opposition to the proposed reports, it is understood that the scheme will not be pressed.

No fable seems to be too silly or incredible to find its way into print now-a-days, though the persons who reproduce such inventions must be perfectly aware of their extreme improbability, to say the least. One of the latest stories in circulation is to the effect that a learned judge of the Superior Court refused to permit an English witness to give his testimony in his own language, and the name of the judge was actually appended to this utter absurdity.

The Supreme Court of the United States manages to get through about 400 cases per annum, and at present has work for three years ahead. It is satisfactory, however, to learn that neither the toils of the past nor those in prospect, have reduced the learned judges to a lean and dyspeptic condition. In a note referring to the formal visit which they made to the President, at the opening of their annual session, it is said: "The

justices are all large men. Almost any one would attract attention by his great size and appearance; and consequently, when the court drove up to the executive mansion and filed into the blue room, they were the observed of all observers. The attorney-general was with them, and he too is a good sized man. When the President joined the group in the blue room the party of big men was complete. The judges did not remain long. They simply paid their respects and drove off again to the capitol."

Judge Taft, of the Vermont Supreme Court, in a paper on "English Law and its Early Books," says: "The first book of English law known to have been printed was an abridgment of the ancient law in Norman French, by Nicholas Statham, Baron of the Exchequer in 1463. It was printed, as is supposed, between the year 1470 and 1490. As is usual with those early books, there is no date, no title page, and no paging, and the author's name does not anywhere appear. It contains many original authorities which are not extant in the year books of those days. In the century after the year 1500 there were many law treatises published, among them the abridgment of Fitzherbert, his *Natura Brevium*; 'The Doctor and Student,' by St. Germain; *Terms De La Ley*, by Rastelle; 'The Boke for a Justyce of Peace'; 'The manner of Kepyng a Court Baron and a Lete'; and the *Carta Feodi*, a book of precedents of feoffments. During the same century there were several volumes of the year books printed, and the reports of Plowden, Brooke, Bellewe and Dyer. The united number of printed volumes of decisions of the English Courts in 1645 can be seen from the comments of the 'Legal Bibliography' upon the paper read by Senator Hoar, before the American Antiquarian Society, in which he states there were but fourteen. In commenting upon this statement it is shown that there were twenty-eight volumes of reports then in existence. But to make this number each part of Coke's reports must be treated as a separate volume. Happy year 1280, when two volumes contained all the law that was known. Happy 1645, when all the law reports might be