

scandals which are at present attracting public attention, characterizing them in appropriate language. The eighth commandment was, in these remarks, largely in evidence; but one could not help thinking as one read the article that it would have been well if the writer had paid some attention to another portion of the decalogue, which says: "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour." Forgetfulness of the latter injunction is as common in certain sections of the lay press as breaches of the eighth commandment are in politics and business life. It is the old story of the mote and the beam exemplified.

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#### STABILITY OF LEGAL ADMINISTRATION.

A very interesting address was recently delivered at the Minnesota State Bar Association by Hon. C. F. Amidon. With much intelligence, and with a frankness which is somewhat unusual with those who, like our neighbours to the south, are generally so well satisfied with their own institutions, the writer draws attention to what he considers the capital vices of American law, viz.:—"Its instability of administration and the frequent retrials of the same controversy." A careful investigation reveals the fact that in 1887 new trials were granted in the United States in forty-six per cent. of all causes pleaded under review in appellate Courts. It was further found that in sixty per cent. of these causes the appeal turned upon questions of pleading and practice. The writer further states that in the law reports of England for the period of time extending from 1890 to 1900 the new trials granted were in less than three and one-half per cent of the cases tried.

The paper refers in commendatory language to the fact that in England the High Court is authorized to regulate all matters of pleading and practice by rules, the Courts controlling all matters of procedure, whilst in the United States this is done by statutory enactment, resulting in innumerable amendments, wise and unwise, mainly the latter, so that there, there is not