

The Legal News.

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An English solicitor, who has been in New South Wales for some time, relates his experience in terms which should deter his brethren of the profession from rashly trying their luck in new fields. He says he made an unsuccessful endeavour to obtain a clerkship, and wasted five months in the attempt, notwithstanding the backing of some of the most influential residents. "There are only between 300 and 400 solicitors in Sydney, and they will not take into their employ an English solicitor. I know of my own knowledge that nine English barristers applied to one firm of solicitors for a clerkship in one week; and there are hundreds of English professional men walking about and doing all kinds of menial labour so as to obtain sufficient to keep life within them." He adds: "Professional men are not wanted in the colonies, which want mechanics and agriculturists with capital to open out the country," which is as true with reference to Canada as to New South Wales.

Lord Justice Bowen has been lightening the fatigue of his official duties by translating Virgil into English verse, and the work is to be given to the world and the tender mercies of the critics in a few days. The *Law Journal* says, "its appearance will revive the tradition, of late years somewhat faded, that judges should be men of letters. Since the days when Talfourd and Alderson were on the bench together, no judge has made any name in the general literature of his country. Lord Justice Bowen happily illustrates the fact that even at the end of the nineteenth century the qualities that make a man a scholar and a poet do not disqualify him for success at the bar and on the Bench."

Chief Justice Sir A. A. Dorion, in his charge to the Grand Jury, Nov. 2, at the

opening of the term of Queen's Bench, observed:—"It is well that I should mention what is a libel and what are your duties with regard to the cases that may be brought to your notice. A libel is the publication of any injurious writing against the character, position or standing in society of any person or persons. It is not necessary that the writing should be of such a character as to impose a material injury upon the person who complains of the libel, but it is sufficient that the writing is calculated to bring the person against whom the writing is directed into contempt, or even ridicule. Your duty is to see whether in reality the writing in question contains anything injurious to the good name of the complainant or brings him into contempt. When you are satisfied that such a libel has been published you will see whether the person accused of publishing it is really responsibly connected with the publication of the libel. It is not necessary for you to see whether there is any legal defence to be made to the accusation. This is not the province of the grand jurors, unless it clearly appeared by the evidence adduced by the prosecution that the accusation is either frivolous or malicious, in which case you might throw out the bill."

SUPREME COURT OF CANADA.

Quebec.]

UNION BANK OF LOWER CANADA V. BULMER.

Promissory note—Accommodation—Made by partner without authority—Renewal—Knowledge of holder.

In an action on a promissory note, the defence was that the note of which it was a renewal was given for the accommodation of the payee by the defendant's partner, who had no authority to make it, and that the plaintiffs, when they took the renewal, knew its defective character.

Held, that as it did not appear that such knowledge attached when the original note came into plaintiffs' possession, they were entitled to recover.

Irvine, Q.C., for appellants.

A. W. Atwater, for the respondent.