

large. The *Herald* estimates that last year the register received \$340,000, and the county clerk \$300,000. Every practitioner knows that these enormous sums do not enrich these officials alone, and he knows too that to expedite a search he must bleed at every pore. The *Herald's* remedy for the evil is the following, which we submit for the reflection of our readers: "The minds of practical men in various places have been independently drawn to this problem, and it has been found by all or nearly all of them who have stated their conclusions that the remedy for this great evil is to arrange the indices of the conveyances and mortgages upon a geographical basis, and not to have a name index at all (except for judgments); to make it a locality index, so that a buyer or lender desiring to know all the deeds and mortgages and liens on record affecting a particular house and lot can turn first to a ward and block map, something like the ward and block maps in the tax office of this city, and there identify by its number the parcel he is searching against, and then turn to another volume which is numbered and paged to correspond with the ward and lot number, and find in that volume a page devoted to that particular lot, and on that page, in regular order, each occupying but one line, find every deed, mortgage and lien affecting that lot properly noted; then it will be a brief and easy labor to examine the specific volumes of records referred to." The above is precisely the system introduced nearly twenty years ago in the Province of Quebec.

THE RETIREMENT OF MR. BENJAMIN.

The withdrawal of this distinguished advocate from active work, in consequence of ill-health, has already been noticed. The *Times* refers to the banquet which was given to the retiring barrister, in the hall of the Inner Temple, on Saturday evening, June 20, as an almost unique event. Though liberal in its hospitality, the *Times* says "the English bar is not prone to go out of its way to honor even its most illustrious members; and to pay this mark of respect to one who had not entered it by the usual gates, who had come late in life to England to repair his shattered fortunes and to join a profession which has all sorts of portals and passwords calculated, if not intended, to exclude outsiders,

is a rare event, and is, in fact, without a parallel in the long history of the bar. It is the strange and brilliant ending of a strange professional career. The attendance of the chief judges and of upward of 200 members of the English bar shows that Mr. Benjamin has, in his comparatively brief career here, won the esteem and respect of men from whom so often in forensic contests he must have borne away the prize."

The following notice of his career, from the same journal, will be read with interest:—

"On Saturday little was said as to the element of romance in Mr. Benjamin's career, which is wholly wanting in the commonplace histories of most successful lawyers. But it formed a background of interest to the proceedings. In the brief speech in which, with feeling and tact, Mr. Benjamin acknowledged the warmth of his reception, he stated that he had retired from practice just as he had completed the fiftieth year of his professional life. Into that half century how much variety, what diversity of incident, experience, and scene have been crowded! If Mr. Benjamin writes his autobiography, as it is to be hoped he will, what materials for a stirring narrative he may draw from his memory. When some of the judges who had come to do him honor were children, he was already conspicuous at the New Orleans bar. His earliest published legal work, a digest of the reported cases of the Louisiana courts, is dated as far back as 1834, and his published arguments in important commercial cases, such as Lockett against the Merchants' Insurance Company, made him known as long ago as 1840 throughout the Union as an admirable lawyer. In the Senate he was equally successful as a powerful and dexterous debater. He attained distinction as a legal reasoner before the Supreme Court at Washington, a tribunal which has always preserved a high forensic standard. For some time before the outbreak of the civil war called him to play a still more conspicuous part, he was sought after wherever acumen and learning were needed; and one of the greatest of his forensic efforts was his argument before the Federal District Court of California in regard to an important mining claim—The United States against Castilleros. Of the share which he took in the struggle between the North and the South, it is enough to say that he showed no deficiency in boldness or skill,