

BUSINESS IN THE COURTS.

not only the rights and privileges of the profession, but the duties of Clerk and Sheriff as well. If his nerve be equal to his brutality and impudence, we should recommend him to the latter official as a desirable *Calcraft*. The document is headed by the Royal Arms, and then proceeds as follows:—

Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland,
Defender of the Faith, &c.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO,
COUNTY OF YORK
TO WIT :

Toronto, 1876

Mr.

having placed your account in my hands for collection, amounting to \$ _____ with instructions to proceed against you if the same is not paid at once, I beg to inform you that unless the same be paid forthwith, I will be compelled to apply for a judgment summons to enable the Bailiff to take your goods or arrest you.

Yours respectfully,

JOS. MCGAFFIKIN, G.C.A.,
P. O. Box 2566.

Highway robbers are occasionally pretty roughly handled, and when they are, the law as well as the public says: "Served them right." Though the law may not reach this individual, we doubt if it would very severely punish any indignant debtor who might think proper to treat this G. C. A. (whatever that may be intended to mean), as one would treat a pick-pocket caught *flagrante delicto*. We say the law may not reach him, but it is not quite clear that he has not committed a felony under sec. 181 of the Division Courts' Act: (see O'Brien's D.C. Acts, p. 91, and notes, and *Reg. v. Evans*, 3 U. C. L. J. 119).

If this person has not brought himself within the law, he has adopted an ingenious mode of evading it by a hairs' breadth. In the meantime, we should recommend him to try some other business for a living.

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It is said that anything may be proved by figures, and it is also said that figures cannot lie. The first saying is very applicable, when it is sought to establish pet theories by incomplete and inexact

statistics; but, where they are complete and exact, it is difficult to refuse credence to the tale they tell.

It was the generally received impression that the Administration of Justice Act would tend, and had in fact tended, to decrease the business in the Court of Chancery, owing to the large equitable powers given to the Common Law Courts. We have been at some pains to ascertain whether there has been, so far, any such result in fact; and we must confess to some surprise at finding that, instead of a decrease, there has been a very large increase to the business of that Court during the past year.

The following statements, taken from a return recently made to the House of Assembly, make this clear:—

A RETURN showing the number of Bills filed in, Decrees and Orders issued by the Court of Chancery since 1870, and the number of cases heard or otherwise disposed of at the sittings in Toronto and the number of cases re-heard during the same period.

YEAR.	BILLS.	DECREES.	REPORTS.	ORDERS.	COSTS REV.'D.	RE-HEARINGS.	TORONTO.	
							CAUSES EX. & H.	GENERAL PAPER.
1869	1335	702	440	574	28	53	334
1870	1444	713	404	2923	518	19	39	344
1871	1364	613	487	3172	417	21	43	375
1872	1608	671	496	3336	547	23	39	370
1873	1728	782	648	3440	575	24	78	464
1874	1647	777	732	3335	616	41	75	436
1875	2071	942	780	3200	714	97	*73	523

* This is an estimate only, but probably correct. The number of Orders is diminished by the effect of the General Orders of February, 1875.

† As there is no return as yet from the Deputy Registrars of lists of causes set down for Examination and Hearing in their several Counties: this return does not contain that information.