

CAUSERIE.

—"With critic judgment."

CHURCHILL: *The Rosciad*.

—"Some stray words

Of old familiar Latin met my ear."

CALDERON: *El Mágico Prodigioso*.

HYPHER-CRITICISM IN THE PRIVY COUNCIL.—In his opinion in the *Indian Annuities Case* (decided in the Privy Council on 9th December, 1896), Lord Watson has shown himself, like Iago, to be "nothing, if not critical." By a clause common to the several statutes by which the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec and the Dominion of Canada referred certain important matters in dispute between them to arbitration, it was enacted that "the award shall be subject to appeal [on questions of law] to the Supreme Court, and thence to the Privy Council of England, in case their lordships are pleased to entertain the appeal." Now the merest tyro in the law knows that ultimate appeals from Colonial courts lie to the Sovereign, and are theoretically determined by Her Majesty on the advice of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council; therefore the designation of the court of last resort in the clause above mentioned as the "Privy Council of England" is so clearly a verbal slip of the draftsman, that, on the principle of 'De minimis non curat lex,' it ought not to be considered worthy of serious notice. Not so with Lord Watson, however—

A lapsus, howsoever slim,
A grievous error is to him,
And it is something more!

It is an occasion for assuming ignorance absolutely Bæotian on the part of colonial legislators with respect to constitutional law. It is an opportunity not to be neglected by the ponderous mind for delivering a homily in reproof of such postulated ignorance. This is the voice of the chider, chiding never so wisely: "The concluding part of this enactment ignores the constitutional rule that an appeal lies to Her