

The Legal News.

VOL. VI. JUNE 23, 1883. No. 25.

THE MONTREAL COURT HOUSE.

The Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench, in his charge to the Grand Jury at the beginning of the June Term, made a practical suggestion with reference to the Court House, which we feel sure the bar would be glad to see carried out. "I would also call your attention," said his Honour, "to the want of accommodation of the present building, for the convenient despatch of the constantly increasing judicial business of this district; small rooms are inconveniently crowded with clerks; hundreds of records affecting interests of great magnitude, and in many cases involving the fortunes of many, are from want of proper vaults left unprotected against the danger of fire, and even the judges of the several courts are complaining of insufficient room accommodation for the discharge of their duties. Changes have been made which have only proved to be a very partial and temporary relief, and suggestions have been made of other changes which could hardly make this building sufficient for all the purposes for which it was designed. While it appears to be admitted on all hands that the revenue derived in this district from the taxes on judicial proceedings is far in excess of the requirements for the maintenance of this building, there would seem to be no reason why a portion of those revenues should not be appropriated to the erection of buildings exclusively for the holding of criminal courts and the offices of the officers connected with the administration of criminal justice, leaving the present building for the exclusive use of the Civil Courts and the offices connected therewith." It may be remarked that in Toronto the business is conducted in separate buildings, Osgoode Hall being appropriated to civil business.

INTERNATIONAL COURTESY.

The Lord Chief Justice of England set an example to be commended and followed, at the trial of the dynamite conspirators. Mr. Matkinson, counsel for Bernard Gallagher, one

of the accused, in the course of his address to the jury, contended that because his client was a resident of Brooklyn, he could not be judged by the same standard as an Englishman. "It was a matter of common knowledge," he went on to say, "that plots existed in America for the manufacture of dynamite for use against England, almost with the connivance of the American Government."

Mr. Clarke and Mr. Rowlands protested against this language, and declared there was no proof that such was the case. Mr. Justice Brett declared that counsel had no right to make such a remark. He said there was no proof of the existence in America of plots or connivance thereon on the part of the Government of that country. The Chief Justice also rebuked Mr. Matkinson. He said:—"I think it is only due to our friendly relations with a great Government that you unreservedly withdraw your statement." Mr. Matkinson then said he would gladly accede to the ruling of the court.

BENCH AND BAR.

The N. Y. *Daily Register*, in reply to such complaints as that of the *Ohio Law Journal*, (*ante*, p. 153), says: "It does not lie in the mouth of the bar to criticise the verbosity of opinions, for they are greater offenders than the bench in this respect. * * * As to the bar we must acknowledge, even speaking in the character of an attorney, that appeal books are often stuffed with more prolix, irrelevant and tedious matter than ever incumbered an opinion; and the judges who are compelled to wade through such records to prepare to write an opinion would be more or less than human did they not often catch the infection of diffuseness and echo a slight share of the redundancy, the tautology, the pleonasm, the repetitions, the digressions, and all the ingenious long-windedness so natural to the bar. Our native resources of wordiness have been wonderfully enhanced by the easy and profitable reproduction of easy but unprofitable prolixity which the system of stenographic notes has introduced."

INTEREST ON HYPOTHECARY CLAIMS.

To the Editor of the LEGAL NEWS:

SIR,—Art. 734 of the Code of Procedure says that "interest and arrears of rents preserved by registration of a claim, are collocated in the