

law on the sole ground that it would protect innocent persons, and that distinguished judge, Chief Justice Way, has informed me that the Act enabling accused persons to give evidence works well in South Australia.

It is certainly time that we made up our minds as to what is the proper way of trying an accused person, and the opportunity has at last arrived for the wisdom of Parliament to determine whether we shall revert in all cases to the old system of trial, whether we shall allow the existing "atrocious anomalies" (Lord Salisbury's expression, I think) to continue in the present modes of trial, or whether the proposed new system provided by this bill shall prevail in all cases. It is fortunate that the leading men on both sides of the House have supported the principle of this bill, as it will consequently be dealt with in committee simply as a bill for the reform of the law, in which party politics can have no part.

As the second reading of this bill was carried by so large a majority, and as it has your powerful aid and that of the Press generally, it will in all probability be passed this session, and it therefore behoves everyone, lawyer or layman, who has had experience in criminal trials to assist in making it as perfect a bill as possible. No good can come of charging your opponents with being "pathetically ignorant of their own ignorance," or of prophesying that thirty innocent persons on one circuit alone will be convicted if this bill is allowed to become law.

GENERAL NOTES.

DIVORCE.—A judge of Janesville, Wisconsin, granted a decree of divorce to a woman whose husband puffed tobacco smoke through the keyhole of a door leading into a room where her mother lay sick.

LITIGATION IN INDIA.—The Government of India has addressed a letter to the Government of Bengal on the increase of litigation. Reference is made to the "enormous and apparently increasing" number of appeals in civil suits. The figures show that there are appeals in about 30 per cent. of the contested cases in India, and that there are 240 appeals in India for every one in England from inferior Courts.