

much the same as that which besets anyone who endeavours to define the amount of violence or threatened violence necessary to justify an assault and battery. The difficulty may, of course, in many cases be obviated by a reliance upon the duty of a soldier, in his capacity of citizen, to come to the aid of the law in the suppression of a riot or armed resistance to the executive which is endeavouring to enforce a legal measure or to perform its legal duties.—*Law Times*.

JUDICIAL DEMEANOUR.

One of our English exchanges takes to task, in a recent issue, some of their English judges. The following item under the head of "Judicial Levity" is fortunately not as applicable to judges in this country as it appears to be to some in England. It may be quoted, nevertheless, for reference should the occasion require. "We are not surprised that the opinion of the general public, as reflected by the lay press throughout the country, is becoming distinctly weary of the quips and jokes which cause reports of some legal cases to be interspersed with laughter.' No protest whatever could ever have been raised against the true wit of the late Lord Bowen or the late Lord Macnaghten, while in the judgments of one present Lord of Appeal many gems are to be found. Their methods of driving home some particularly forceful observation have done much to brighten the literature of the law, but jesting, in contradistinction to wit, merely degrades the dignity of the Bench and is singularly out of place in a court of justice."

What the writer says on another subject is of more importance. Possibly the cap may fit some of our judges. "We cordially agree with Lord Reading that it is of the utmost importance that cases brought before the courts should never be hurried, and that patience is one of the greatest qualities necessary for a judge. As a corollary to this, we would add that talkative judges, and judges who are incessantly interrupting the arguments of counsel, not only unduly prolong the cases and add to the list of arrears and to the expenses of litigants, but also increase their own difficulties in arriving at a correct determination. The ideal judge listens attentively, interrupts moderately, and considers carefully."