

The Legal News.

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The English Queen's Bench Division in *Gledhill v. Crowther*, April 30, overruled the decision of a returning officer on a point of some interest. The facts, as presented in the special case submitted to the Court, were that the petitioner and respondent were candidates at the election of a county councillor. The petitioner's proposer was an elector of the name of James Sykes, who, however, signed the nomination paper thus: James Sykes, junr. The respondent thereupon gave notice to the returning officer that he objected to the petitioner's nomination paper, on the ground that the name of James Sykes, junr., did not appear upon the register of electors. This objection was allowed. It was found by the case that there were three persons (other than the said James Sykes) of the name of James Sykes entered on the register as voters. The addition of 'Junior' was first used as a part of his signature by the said James Sykes to distinguish him from his father, who had then been dead for many years, and that he was generally known throughout the electoral division as 'James Sykes, junr.' The usual signature of the said James Sykes was, and always had been, 'James Sykes, junr.' None of the other three persons of the same name so entered upon the register was known as, or signed himself as, James Sykes, junior. The question for the opinion of the Court was, whether the objection to the nomination of petitioner ought to have been allowed. The Court (Mathew and Grantham, JJ.) held that the returning officer was wrong in allowing the objection, that the prayer of the petitioner must be granted, and a new election held.

The title of our contemporary, "*The Green Bag*," has caused some discussion as to the colour of the bag formerly carried by lawyers. *The Green Bag* referred to a comedy written by Wycherley, "*The Plain Dealer*," to show that lawyers usually carried green bags in the seventeenth century. *The Law Journal*

(London) challenged the correctness of this statement. "The bag by which the barrister is known in England is that in which he carries his forensic attire. He buys a blue bag when he is called to the bar, and carries it to the end of his days, or until a Queen's Counsel who has led him in a cause presents him with a red bag. Occasionally he may have a brief or a book in his bag, and of late years the bag has, by a departure from good forensic form, sometimes been seen in court, but its uses properly stop at the robing-room door. Attorneys in former times carried green bags, not as part of their professional fitting, but as holding deeds, records and documents of a more or less official character."

In reply to this *The Green Bag* writes:—"Upon further examination, we feel that there is certainly very good authority to support our statement as to the antiquity of the *green bag* as the badge of a lawyer. In his *Book on Lawyers* Mr. Jeaffreson says: 'On the stages of the Caroline theatres the lawyer is found with a green bag in his hand; the same is the case in the literature of Queen Anne's reign; and until a comparatively recent date, green bags were generally carried in Westminster Hall and in provincial Courts by the great body of legal practitioners.' Again, he says: 'So also in the time of Queen Anne, to say that a man intended to carry a green bag was the same as saying that he meant to adopt the law as a profession. . . . It must, however, be borne in mind that in Queen Anne's time, green bags, like white bands, were as generally adopted by solicitors and attorneys as by members of the bar. . . . Some years have elapsed since green bags altogether disappeared from our Courts of law.'"

The *Law Journal*, however, in its rejoinder, is unwilling to accept Mr. Jeaffreson as conclusive authority, and says:—"The passage from the '*Plain Dealer*' clearly does not support the statement that 'on the stages of the Caroline theatres the lawyer is found with a green bag in his hand,' or that 'in Queen Anne's time green bags were as generally adopted by solicitors or attorneys as by mem-