

THE ALBANY LAW JOURNAL: Weekly. Weed, Parsons & Co., Publishers, Albany, N. Y. \$5 00 per annum.

This is a new weekly Law Publication of much promise. It does not purport to be a collection of miscellaneous reports of cases, of which there are enough and to spare in the United States, but is more of a Magazine of matter interesting to the profession, culled from various sources, and containing leading articles on important topics. We have now received several numbers, and they evince good taste and much literary attainment.

A very interesting sketch of "Law and Lawyers in literature," by Mr. Irving Browne, runs through the numbers that have hitherto come to hand. With many of the incidents and extracts we are of course all more or less familiar, but many are new to the general reader, and may here be found collected and arranged in an accessible shape.

We notice also an address to law students by Hon. J. W. Edmonds, containing some excellent advice; the Administration of Justice, by the same author; on the Study of Forensic eloquence; Law of Arrest without Warrant, &c. We anticipate good success for this publication.

**SUMMARY CONVICTIONS.**—Mr. Denman has brought in a bill endorsed by Mr. Cross and Mr. Hibbert, to amend the law relating to first convictions for certain offences. The purport of the bill is not apparent on the face of it, inasmuch as it in terms only affects the operation of an Act therein cited. The first and practically the only section of the bill is in these words:—

Where any person shall, after the passing of this Act, be summarily convicted before a justice of the peace of any offence under 18 & 19 Vict. c. 126, and it shall be a first conviction, the justice may, if he shall so think fit, discharge the offender from his conviction upon his making such satisfaction to the party aggrieved for damages and costs, or either of them, as shall be ascertained by the justice.

The effect of this measure seems to be that, when a person is charged before a police magistrate or before justices in petty sessions with simple larceny, or stealing from the person, or larceny as a clerk or servant, and the case is one which may properly be disposed of in a summary way, and the accused has not been previously convicted, the offender may be permitted to make a monetary reparation to the party aggrieved, instead of being sent to prison. So far as concerns the party aggrieved, this plan may be regarded as advantageous. So far as concerns society at large, it seems to add one more to the cases in which the criminal who has or can command money is placed in a widely different posi-

tion from the indigent criminal. In practice we suppose that it will be very satisfactory to juvenile clerks or servants who rob their employers of petty cash in order to indulge in betting or the minor vices. These youths generally have a kind-hearted mother who prefers being sold up to seeing her son go to gaol, and their employers are not always able to resist the combined arguments of pecuniary amends and parental entreaties. However, we suppose that Mr. Denman has some good reason for the introduction of the bill.—*The Law Journal.*

The law's delays have ever been a favourite topic with public writers and speakers; the law's despatch and promptitude rarely find a chronicler. A remarkable instance, however, of the rapidity of the movements of the Court of Chancery, occurring only a few days since, ought not to be unrecorded. Some property of the Landed Estates Company, distant about twelve miles from London, was, in the course of one forenoon, invaded by a body of men, who commenced digging up a portion of it, in assertion of the supposed right of their employer. At two o'clock information was received at the London offices of the company of these proceedings, and at three o'clock instructions were given for the filing of a bill for an injunction to restrain the defendant. With the assistance of several shorthand writers a bill was written from dictation and placed in the hands of the printers, together with a plan of the estate, and an affidavit. These were printed off with the utmost speed; the bill was filed the same afternoon in the court of Vice-Chancellor Malins, and the learned judge, after hearing counsel, granted the injunction. By seven o'clock in the evening a messenger, accompanied by a body of police served a copy of the injunction upon the parties who were still upon the ground, and who were forthwith removed. Such a rapid movement is perhaps unparalleled.—*Solicitors' Journal.*

There is a well-known story of a jury who returned a verdict of "guilty, with some doubt as to the identity of the prisoner," after convicting, and of another who recommended the prisoner to mercy, "because they didn't think he was the man who did it." These are usually considered too good jokes to have actually occurred. If, however, the report in the *Times* of Wednesday last is correct, the first of the above verdicts has been equalled by one given by a jury at the Central Criminal Court on Tuesday. One George Woolgar, a policeman, was indicted for highway robbery in taking by force some money from a woman in the street. The jury, after three hours' deliberation, found a verdict of guilty, "with a strong recommendation to mercy on the ground of discrepancies in a portion of the evidence." Such a verdict requires no comment, but it is still more remarkable that, according to the report, the Recorder took that recommendation into his consideration in deciding on the sentence which ought to be passed.

That a jury should sometimes be illogical is not, perhaps, surprising, but a judge should know better. We must hope that there has been some inaccuracy in the report.—*Solicitors' Journal.*