

Flotsam and Jetsam.

THE BRIDGE ACROSS THE NITH;

OR,

THE VILLAGE OF NEW HAMBURG *v.* THE COUNTY OF WATERLOO.

(20 A.R. 1.)

Two Municipal Councils with anxiety were filled
 To know which of the two of them a certain bridge should build.
 So to the law they did appeal, and then a case was tried,
 In order that the court might soon this knotty point decide.
 Now the whole case did turn upon the question of the plan
 On which to take the river's width where this here bridge should span.
 And first the judge who tried the case did in his judgment say,
 "To ascertain the river's width this is the proper way :
 From top of bank to top of bank on either side you take
 The measure, and in doing this one hundred feet I make.
 So for the plaintiffs now I give my judgment in a trice,"
 And then the plaintiffs clapped their hands and said, "How very nice !"
 But though he was an ample judge as ever you did see,
 Still with his judgment the defence would not at all agree ;
 But to another learned court they did appeal the case,
 And then the tables quite were turned, for this is what took place.
 The judges of the latter court unanimously said,
 "That where the river's highest mark most usually 's displayed
 Is how you find the river's width, and, bearing this in mind,
 The river 's not a hundred feet, and that is what we find.
 So for defendants now we give our judgment in a trice."
 Whereat defendants clapped their hands and said, "How very nice !"
 But then the village councillors unhappy quite did feel,
 And to another court they said that they would now appeal ;
 "And there," they said, "we'll get the law expounded very clear
 By judges four of high degree, and none of your small beer."
 And when these judges sat upon the case they were dismayed
 To find what ignorance of the law the other courts displayed,
 For two were clear at freshet time the river's width you take,
 And, if you did, a hundred feet and more 'twould surely make.
 But then the other two did deal in this way with the matter,
 And said, "The feelings of the court below we cannot shatter.
 So we decide that they were right ; and thus it will appear
 ? at now the law upon this point is, like the mud, most clear ;
 Therefore the judgment of the court below we do affirm,
 Because we don't agree, you see — at which you mustn't squirm."
 So judgment for defendants was affirmed in a trice,
 At which defendant's clapped their hands and said, "How very nice !"

Chorus by Village Councillors :

Oh, when we brought the suit about the bridge across the Nith,
 We found the law, when hammered out, was very like a myth.
 To tell us plain what is the law no court would deign to stoop ;
 But this, alas ! we know full well, that we are "in the soup."