

consequence of a dereliction of duty on the part of such carrier, but it was conceded that they would have sustained no injury if they had been packed dry, and shown that the carrier was not informed that special care was necessary, held, that the carrier was liable only to nominal damages.—*Baldwin v. London Ch. & Dov. R. Co.*, L. R., 9 Q. B. D. 582.

Contempt.—1. Publishing and circulating copies of the pleadings in a pending action, with comments deprecating the case of one of the parties, is a contempt of court, which, if threatened, may be restrained by injunction.—*Kilcat v. Sharp*, (Eng. Ch. D.) 48 L. T. Rep. (N.S.) 64.

2. Such a publication sent to one not friendly to the sender is not privileged, though marked "private."—*Ib.*

GENERAL NOTES.

The following have been named commissioners to consolidate and revise the Statutes of Canada:—Hon. Sir A. Campbell, Minister of Justice; James Cockburn, Q.C., J. A. Ouimet, W. Graham, Q.C., G. W. Burbidge, Deputy Minister of Justice, A. Ferguson, and W. Wilson, Assistant Law Clerk.

According to a California paper, Chinamen who deal in unstamped cigars have dropped on a new dodge. They paste pieces of red pepper on some fish scales on their faces, and when brought before the court, begin to scratch off the scales. Then somebody cries, "A leper," and the Judge holds up his hands in horror, saying: "The defendant is not guilty; get out of here, John, as quick as you can."

DURATION OF PARLIAMENTS.—The Parliament of Canada met this year on the 8th of February, and was prorogued on the 25th day of May, it having been the longest session on record since Confederation. The following statement may be of interest:—

Parliament of 1869	met 15 April	and rose 22 June.
"	1870 " 16 Feb.	" 12 May
"	1871 " 17 Feb.	" 14 April
"	1872 " 11 April	" 14 June
"	1873 (1st) 5 March	" 13 Aug.
"	1873 (2d) 23 Oct.	" 7 Nov.
"	1874 met 20 March	" 26 May
"	1875 " 4 Feb.	" 12 April
"	1876 " 10 Feb.	" 12 April
"	1877 " 8 Feb.	" 28 April
"	1878 " 7 Feb.	" 10 May
"	1879 " 13 Feb.	" 15 May
"	1880 " 12 Feb.	" 7 May
"	1881 " 9 Dec.	" 21 May
"	1882 " 9 Feb.	" 17 May
"	1883 " 8 Feb.	" 25 May

The first session of the second Parliament (1873) was adjourned, it will be remembered, in consequence of the Canada Pacific inquiry, and did not sit all the time indicated.

A lawyer of the Trojan bar,
Modest and meek as lawyers are,
Though quite decided that he knew,
For general use, a thing or two
Which must some day bring to his net
The larger fish that dodged him yet,
Sat nodding in his office chair—
(In truth he had much time to spare)
When just as his glad dream had centered
On a large fee, a client entered.
Th' unwonted footstep, creaking, broke
Along the floor—the lawyer woke,
Thrust out his hand as if to seize
(Fruits of his dream) the expectant fees;
But finding no retainer in it,
Stared at the stranger for a minute,
Then motioned to a seat, and muttered
Something about his bread unbuttered,
And then proceeded to explain
That lately such excessive strain
His mind had undergone while he
Was bending all his energy
On an important case, involving
Such intricate points for legal solving
That he believed, in point of fact,
His brain was hardly left intact;
And that revenging nature cast
His weary eyelids down at last.
But he was ready now, he thought,
To give such counsel as was sought.
The countryman—for such he seemed
Looked dazed as if *he*, too, had dreamed;
For not a word of all was stated
His dull, crude sense had penetrated.
"Wal, Squire, I've come—if you're awake—
To see what course I orter take
With Bill O'Neil who's run away
And owes me for a ton of hay.
The biggest rogue I ever saw;—
Now tell me, lawyer, what's the law?"
"Why, sir, the case requires some thought:
The fellow then, it seems, has bought
Your personal property."—"No! my *hay*!"
"Absconded and refused to pay."
"No! no! Squire, no!—Did I not say,
The dirty dog has run away?"
Precisely, but my Blackstone says
Absconded is a legal phrase.
Now let me see:—You must get out—"
"Oh, I will go, Squire, never doubt—"
"A short attachment; seize upon
His household goods—your suit is won!"
"His household goods?—why what a dunce!
His household goods—I told you once
That he's got nothin' anywhere,
No more than *you*!—Oh, you may swear,
I'll find some sharp, shrewd lawyer, yet
Who'll tell me how to get my debt!"
Out rushed the hind with visage grim,
The legal boot assisting him.
The lawyer cheated of his fee
Stalked out more grimly e'en than he;
But first he tacked upon his door
A card that read:—"Return at 4."

—F. J. Parmenter in *Troy Press*.