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WE call the attention of our readers to the letter of Mr. Seymour D. Thompson, one of the editors of the *American Law Review*, which appears elsewhere in this issue. That eminent legal writer evidently appreciates the painstaking and thorough character of the work done by the learned Master-in-Ordinary. We have had occasion before now to urge through these columns on the proper authorities the importance of the duties discharged by this officer and by the learned Master-in-Chambers as well: duties of a judicial nature, requiring for their proper discharge legal ability and learning of a high order. We regret that the talents and legal attainments which these two judicial officers undoubtedly possess do not bring them the substantial appreciation by the government in the way of salary to which they are both properly entitled. We have always been surprised that Canadian decisions receive so little attention from the courts either in the United States or in Great Britain. We have no doubt, however, that the time is at hand when Canadian reports will be cited frequently in the courts of both these branches of the great English family.

## MAINTENANCE.

From a very early period in the history of English law it has been considered an offence for persons officiously to intermeddle and concern themselves in promoting litigation, in which they themselves have no direct or immediate beneficial interest.

This offence is known to the law by the name of "Maintenance"; but of this offence there are several species. Maintenance proper consists in a person unlawfully taking in hand, or upholding quarrels and suits wherein he is not concerned, to the hindrance of common right: Bac. Abr. Tit. *Maintenance*: and see per Buller, J., in *Master v. Miller*, 4 T.R. 340. When, in addition to intermeddling unlawfully in maintaining the suit of another, the offender bargains, as a consideration for his doing so, for a part of the land, or other proceeds of the litigation the offence is called "champerty," which is said to be the unlawful maintaining of a suit in consideration of some bargain to have part of the thing in dispute, or some profit out of it: Bac. Abr. Tit. *champerty* and *champertors* were defined by 33 Ed. I., *ordinat. consp.* as follows: "Champertors be they that move pleas and suits, or cause to be moved either by their own procurement