

**DIRECTORS' RIGHT TO PREFER THEMSELVES.**—Directors are behind the scenes, and, being so, are perfectly aware whether the play is a 'draw' or whether the curtain must shortly come down on the piece for good, and this knowledge gives them an unquestionable advantage in getting paid over outside creditors who view the performance only from the pit or dress circle. Is a director entitled to profit by this knowledge? In America they think not. Directors are treated as being in a fiduciary relation to the creditors as soon as the company is unable to pay its way. The subject has not received all the attention it deserves in England, but, so far as the authorities go, they give the directors the full benefit of their position. The strongest case is *Wilmott v. The London Celluloid Company*. There the directors had received insurance moneys on the eve of winding-up, and repaid themselves out of them a loan to the company, and the Court refused to treat it as a fraudulent preference, though by doing so the directors were practically putting the whole of the assets in their pockets. It was a short syllogism. Thus: Paying debts of the company is in the ordinary course of business. This is a debt of the company. It is in the ordinary course for the directors to pay it. By English law the directors may even prepay their shares to prefer themselves. But a director's 'place' is a hard one, and he ought to have his perquisites.—*Law Journal* (London).

**PROFESSIONAL PLEASANTRIES.**—A member of the medical profession was once discussing with Bobus Smith—Sydney Smith's lawyer brother—the merits of their respective professions. 'Well,' said the doctor, 'you must admit that your profession does not make angels of men.' 'No,' replied Bobus; 'your profession gives them the first chance of that.' We are reminded of this story by Lord Justice Lopes' sarcasm in a recent will case. The testator was mentioned as having consulted an oculist, a chiropodist, and a general practitioner. 'Let me have the names,' said the Lord Justice, 'because I am surprised he lived so long.' Long-suffering lawyers must retaliate sometimes. Perhaps the smartest pleasantry at the expense of the medical profession was the epitaph on a doctor's tombstone in a churchyard: 'Si monumentum requiris, circumspice.'—*Ib.*

**MARRIAGE IN A WRONG NAME.**—There is an impression abroad that marriage in a wrong name is invalid. The last instance of its public expression was an inquiry addressed to a police mag-