

ENGLISH AND AMERICAN BAR IN CONTRAST. — Under the above caption, Mr. A. Oakley Hall recently wrote an article in the *Green Bag*, in which, as might have been expected, he represented the English Bar in a contemptible light, and glorified the American Bar to the seventh heaven of excellence. To us in this country who know something of the U.S. Bar, Mr. Hall's article will be regarded in the light of a huge joke; but so far as he is concerned, it is plain he really believes what he writes—a "jest in sober earnest" in fact. We have neither the space nor the inclination to reproduce this graceful contribution here, but have taken the liberty of throwing into contrast its conclusion, and an extract taken from the *Albany Law Journal*:

"No one who is familiar with the appearance, carriage, demeanour, and address of lawyers in the United States, and who has also been an attendant upon English courts, can fail to admit and recognize the superiority in those respects of the American advocate. The latter possesses an elasticity and general grace of movement, facial gesture, natural and earnest delivery, readiness and aptitude in questioning, cleverness in repartee, and unction of diction that are seldom met with at the English Bar. The average American lawyer attains eloquence which is seldom reached by the English barrister. The latter is a martyr to decorum. He seems oppressed with a ceremonial sense. He cannot run his fingers caressingly through his hair, and at times he talks as if he felt the weight of his wig upon his brain. Occasionally his gown seems to have the effect of a strait-jacket. A sense of etiquette appears often to act as a species of bearing or curb rein to his movements. * * * * All noted barristers and Q.C.'s seem in some particular to be sensible that they are actors bred in the same school; while in the United States scarcely two lawyers exhibit similar peculiarities. In fine, the schooling of the English Bench and Bar tends towards monotony and artificiality, while the schooling of the American Bar tends toward freedom and naturalness in thought and speech, and to a general behaviour that is fettered only by the innate dignity of a gentleman, and plainly impressed by a high sense of duty."

Here appears the *per contra*:

Lynchburg, Va., special to the *Washington Post*, August 11: "Yesterday afternoon, during the trial of Hugh J. Schott against the Norfolk and Western Railroad, the opposing counsel, J. C. Wysor and General James A. Walker, became involved in a difficulty by Walker accusing Wysor of appealing in his speech to the passion and the prejudice of the jury. Wysor gave Walker the lie. Walker asked for a knife, and Wysor drew his knife and handed it to him. Walker refused the proffer, and borrowed one from a bystander, and the fight commenced. Several blows were struck, and Wysor was stabbed in his shoulder, and his face was slit from his mouth to his ear. Wysor then borrowed a gun and tried to force Walker's room door to shoot him, when both were arrested and put under a bond of \$5,000. Wysor is badly hurt. Both men are among the most prominent lawyers in southwestern Virginia."