

VERDICTS OBTAINED BY TAKING AN AVERAGE.

has not one rule of action where conspicuous, and another where obscure persons are concerned; and since it is a fundamental principle of the Republic that all men are equal before the law; and since this court desires to impress this great fact, this great law, upon the minds of all the people of this territory . . . therefore, it is adjudged and ordered," &c., &c.

Our judges no doubt frequently feel that they are called upon to hear arguments and give decisions on matters so trivial as to excite their disgust. But they will probably never be required to trouble their minds with a subject so weary, stale, flat and unprofitable as that on which the Chancellor of the Diocese of Lincoln lately gave judgment. The question was whether Mr. Henry Keet, Wesleyan minister, had a right to call himself "the Reverend Henry Keet" in an inscription on a tomb-stone placed over his daughter's grave in a parochial burying-ground. On this point counsel, learned in the law, were heard at length. The Chancellor held that the inscription, through the use of the questionable title, might be made the means of disseminating doctrines inconsistent with those of the Church of England. Bearing in mind the general law of the Church, the 9th of the canons of 1603, and the history of the Wesleyan Methodists, he doubted much whether the words Wesleyan Minister alone would not be unlawful. Judgment,—that the inscription must omit the objectionable word "Reverend,"

A curious case recently came before the Court of Exchequer Chamber, at Dublin. The will of Edward Cook contained the following passage:—"I give and bequeath to my steward, Patrick Doran, £50 sterling, and the same to his wife, Maria

Doran," and also "the house and lands of Littlefield, until I am able to live there and enjoy it myself." The testator then added—"I give and bequeath my property in the county Tipperary and the county Kilkenny to Captain Benjamin Bunbury." It was contended by the plaintiffs, claiming through Captain Bunbury, that the devise of the lands at Littlefield (which were in Tipperary), was void for uncertainty, and that Captain B. took the estate under the latter clause of the will. Evidence was given by the defendants, in explanation of the words "until I am able to live there and enjoy it myself," that the testator was a firm believer in the millennium, and was simply providing for a re-vesting of the estate in himself when he returned to earth with Christ and the saints, when he looked forward to enjoying the property again. The judges ruled that the words, even taking them to be insensible, did not affect or cut down the previously created estate.

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"To be, or not to be," is becoming a question more and more frequently mooted with regard to that venerable institution denominated "Trial by Jury." Public opinion has considerably changed since the time when Thomas Erskine, on being called to the dignity of Serjeant, gave rings with the motto consisting of these three words. Suitors are awakening to the fact that, as a rule in civil courts, their interests are more likely to be protected and their rights vindicated by a judge skilled in forensic affairs than by a round dozen of their unskilled peers, captured at hap-hazard, and who come to conclusions that not unfrequently prove "a delusion, a mockery, and a snare."