

The Legal News.

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In *Delano v. Case*, June 17, 1887, the Supreme Court of Illinois affirmed the judgment of the Appellate Court, holding that the directors of banks are trustees for depositors as well as for stockholders, and as such are bound to the observance of ordinary care and diligence to save depositors from loss. Hence, if bank directors are guilty of negligence in permitting their bank to be held out to the public as solvent, when in fact it is insolvent, and thereby induce one to deposit his money with the bank, he may recover of such directors, in an action on the case, the damages sustained. The Court cited *Percy v. Millandon*, 3 Louisiana, 568; Wharton on Negligence, § 510; Moore on Banks and Banking, 133.

Sir Matthew Crooks Cameron, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, who died at Toronto, after a brief illness, on June 25, was the only one of the Ontario Chief Justices, who, on the recent occasion, accepted the proffered honour of knighthood. Mr. Cameron was born in Canada in 1822, educated in his native province, and called to the bar in 1849. He was very successful as an advocate before juries, and a forcible public speaker. In 1863, he was made Q. C., and in 1878, was appointed a *puisné* justice of the Queen's Bench. In 1884, on the removal of Chief Justice Wilson from the Common Pleas to the Queen's Bench, Judge Cameron succeeded to the Chief Justiceship of the former.

We have received a copy of a poetic and loyal effusion, by Mr. G. W. Wicksteed, Q.C., in honour of the Jubilee. The freely-flowing verse in which Mr. Wicksteed celebrates the occasion shows that in his case, years have not exiled the power "that breathes an energy divine, that gives a soul to every line." Mr. Wicksteed is also the author of a national anthem.

A rather poor joke nearly ended in a serious piece of business before an English Court. *Davis v. Dalziel* was an action for libel against the publisher of a comic newspaper. The libel complained of was as follows: "Umbrella tricks.—Irate customer: Look here, I bought this compactum umbrella at your shop yesterday. You guaranteed that it would remain small and tidy; and now look at it! I can't fold it up into double its original size. Shopkeeper (blandly, as he inspects the article): I am sure I am very sorry; and I cannot account for it unless—(horrified)—why, my dear sir, you've been using it!" The plaintiff sold only the compactum umbrella, of which he possessed the patent and a copyright, and he complained that the article was calculated to injure him seriously in his business. Baron Huddleston told the jury that the case must be treated by them as men of the world; for if every joke of this kind was made the subject of an action the courts would be fully occupied. It was possible that the plaintiff intended and might by this means get a cheap and excellent advertisement, but they were bound to consider the question as seriously as they could because it was brought before them. To make this a libel they were gravely asked to find that this joke had an innuendo, namely, that the plaintiff fraudulently and deceitfully, and in breach of contract, manufactured and sold the compactum umbrella as one which would shut up in a small compass, well knowing that it would not, etc. It was in their power to give the plaintiff £100,000 for this libel, or they might give him a farthing, or they might find a verdict for the defendant. It was for them to say what they thought of it. The jury found a verdict for the defendant.

LEGISLATION OF LAST SESSION.

The Act 50 Vict., (D.) ch. 14, assented to June 23, to make provision for the appointment of a Solicitor General, enacts as follows:

"1. The Governor in Council may appoint an officer who shall be called the 'Solicitor General of Canada,' and who shall assist the Minister of Justice in the counsel work of the Department of Justice, and shall be