

EDWIN JAMES.—“A fat florid man, with a large, hard face, was Edwin James, with chambers in the Temple and rooms in Pall Mall; his practice was extensive, his fees enormous. I had many consultations with him, but found it difficult to keep him to the subject of my case; he liked talking, but always diverted the subject into other channels. One day I took Dickens, who had never seen Edwin James, to one of these consultations. James laid himself out to be specially agreeable. Dickens was quietly observant. About four months afterward appeared the early numbers of ‘A Tale of Two Cities,’ in which a prominent part was played by Mr. Stryver. After reading the description I said to Dickens: ‘Stryver is a good likeness.’ He smiled. ‘Not bad, I think,’ he said, ‘especially after only one sitting.’”—*Edmund Yates’ Fifty Years of London Life.*

THE BAR AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.—The bar as a body care nothing for the administration of justice. If they did the bar committee would be a very different body; it would be well supported financially and in every other way; on all occasions calling for the expression of professional opinion it would make itself heard, and its annual meeting would be an opportunity for prominent members of the bar to assemble, discuss deliberately matters of moment to their craft, and pass resolutions when necessary which would influence not only the tone of professional life and practice, but the constitution and sittings of the courts, the conduct of the bench and even the framing of our laws. But these Saturday afternoon flittings are indulged in for the purpose of throwing a veil over the utter indifference of the bar to the administration of justice and the proper government of the profession. On Saturday last, had the bar meant business, many matters might have been dealt with; there is the public prosecutor, the decline of legal business, professional advertising, the attitude of counsel in the Court of Appeal, the right of a judge to put in the dock for a lecture any one who is incidentally named at a criminal trial, the defence of witnesses, sketching in court, sons practising before paternal County Court judges, the appointment of County Court judges, the patronage of the lord chancellor and ministry of justice. Indeed the field of inquiry and discussion has scarcely any limit. But Sir Edward Clarke, Dr. Pankhurst and Mr. Oswald sailed round every thing to the safe harbor of an adjournment. And so we suppose it always will be.—*Law Times, (London).*