

THE STOP WATCH SYSTEM.

Some time ago, Mr. James T. Carter, of the New York Bar, was asked to argue the elevated railroad cases before the Supreme Court. A number of distinguished counsel were engaged on one side or the other of the case. Mr. Carter may perhaps be said to approach as nearly as it is possible for any one man, to the position of leader of the American Bar. After the argument was over, during a conversation, he is reported to have made a statement substantially as follows: "I have had the pleasure of listening to a number of the leaders of your Bar in argument before the Supreme Court, and, if I may be permitted to say so, what has most struck me has been the breathless haste manifested in their style of argument." To this one of the aforesaid leaders replied: "Well, Mr. Carter, you are not accustomed to the discipline which brings you under the wire in obedience to a stop watch."

In connection with this subject the following appears in Judge Dillon's work, entitled "Our Law in its Old and New Home, 1894." "It must be admitted that the temptation to apply the 'Stop Watch doctrine' must be very strong. Scores of cases go up on appeal that either have no merit or which have been fully and fairly considered below; cases which involve no new principle, and which turn on mere horn book law. The trifling cost of taking a case up, the fact that appellant does not even have to pay for printing of the paper books of appellee, whom he has dragged into litigation, with several other considerations, all have a tendency to provoke improvident appeals. Parties will gamble on the chances when they can do so without responsibility for the costs of the game. For the bulk of these cases the half hour limit is abundant."

LEGAL ANTIQUITIES.—Bishop Burnet relates a curious circumstance respecting the origin of that important statute, the Habeas Corpus Act. 'It was carried,' he says, 'by an odd artifice in the House of Lords. Lord Grey and Lord Norris were named to be the tellers. Lord Norris was not at all times attentive to what he was doing; so a very fat lord coming in, Lord Grey counted him for ten, as a jest at first; but seeing Lord Norris had not observed it, he went on with this mis-reckoning of ten; so it was reported to the House, and declared that they who were for the bill were the majority, and by this means the bill passed.'—*Green Bag*.

Probate duty was paid on £57,085, as the value of the personal estate of the late Lord Hannen, who died on the 29th of March last.