

RECENT DECISION AND THE CURRENT REPORTS—MIND AND MUSCLE.

such maxim. If, on the other hand, you cannot do so, then the instrument is void for uncertainty, and in that way you certainly construe it in favour of the grantor, because you annul the grant. Beyond that it appears to me it is impossible that the maxim can have any practical application."

Passing from details to generals, one crying evil of all the reports is their length. In nearly every number issued may be found cases which are either mere repetitions of former decisions, or lengthy findings on disputed facts, or collations of decided law, out of place in volumes which should embody only, but all, cases elucidating the development and progress of judicial decisions. When one of the Common Law reports was presented by the Parliamentary committee to the Duke of Wellington, his only remark is said to have been: "Too much of it,—too much of it,—a d—d deal too much of it." What with the increasing number of volumes from the different Courts and the increasing length of judgments in the individual cases, one is reminded of Professor de Morgan's whimsical objurgations on the German language as he enumerated the seven deadly sins of excess therein (1) too many volumes in the language; (2) too many sentences in a volume; (3) too many words in a sentence; (4) too many syllables in a word; (5) too many letters in a syllable; (6) too many strokes in a letter, and (7) too much black in a stroke. Let the reporters discharge their functions of condensation—excise, suppress, curtail—remembering that as brevity is to wit, so is succinctness to reporting.

MIND AND MUSCLE.

We are glad to notice the recent formation of a new company in the "Queen's Own Rifles" from among the Law Students in Toronto, hereafter to be known in that regiment as No. 7.

Volunteering is very popular just now. Perhaps this is somewhat due to the fact that the establishment of a standing army in Canada is becoming a debated question. Recent events in this Province, and events still more recent and startling in the United States, have given the proposition a tangible shape. It is not our province, however, to discuss the advisability of having a standing army in Canada; nor are we prepared, at present, to assert that the organization of this branch of the "Devil's own" will be a sufficient defence against any impertinence from even the limited army of our cousins to the south of us, but we are satisfied that they will charge the enemy abroad as bravely as they do their clients at home (and this speaks volumes for some of them). But, joking apart, perilous times may come, as they have before, to this Canada of ours, and then, as was seen years ago, we may also see future Chief Justices leading their companies to victory, or marching in the ranks as full privates, shoulder to shoulder with those whose profession is emblematic of force and violence. "There were giants in those days," but who knows but that the new corps may now, or hereafter, have on its roll men whose records will not be unworthy of the names of Robinson, Macaulay or McLean, and who may obtain discharges as honorable as did they. Student soldiers, whose graves are yet green, have shewn that they can fight as bravely and bleed as willingly for their country as did their forefathers. But in these days more is required than mere individual bravery or soldierly fortitude, war has become a great science, and even in its higher branches we can claim a representative from Osgoode Hall. A barrister and a Canadian volunteer has done honor to himself and to his country by his book on Cavalry, this work having been selected by the Russian Government as the best of many at a competition open to the world,