

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM.

portant, if possible, to place this matter upon some intelligible footing, for if the word "gentleman" were allowed to cover all sorts of non-descript occupations it might be misleading. Therefore, without saying at all what might happen, or indicating at all what might be the opinion of the Court, the learned counsel could, if he thought fit, take a rule.

Rule granted.

WHEN we reflect how some of our English barristers treat the public, we read with something like veneration the funeral orations of American lawyers over their departed great. It is indeed unfortunate that these surviving orators occasionally give a description of their deceased colleagues and friends which strikes a foreigner as humorous; and with most unfeigned respect for the late Hon. John Meredith Read, an ex-Chief Justice, of Philadelphia, we cannot help thinking that (if the records before us be faithful) he must have been a nuisance, as well as an ornament to the Bar and the Bench. The Hon. Theodore Cuyler tells us, that when at the Bar, the ex-Chief Justice, "in the dead of the night, between two and three o'clock in the morning," gathered the counsel associated with him in the Christiana treason trials, "at his house, for consultation upon points that being in his mind prevented him from sleeping!" This occurred three times in a few weeks. Further, Mr. Cuyler says that "In an important cause, a few years ago, Judge Read appointed six o'clock in the morning of the 2nd of January in the dead of winter to hear the argument, and there before daylight while the stars were yet shining, a thorough and elaborate argument was held upon a great question of equity law, and an injunction was awarded by Judge Read before eight o'clock in the morning of that day." Early rising is no doubt an admirable practice, but it is difficult to believe that the argument would not have been equally elaborate, and the injunction quite as efficacious, after breakfast as before. To the few things we have to be thankful for in connection with our English judicature we must now add the fact that there is no Judge Read on the English Bench.—*Law Times*.

THE joint committee of Benchers of the four Inns of Court, some time ago appointed to consider the subject of Lord Selborne's two bills, which were brought into Parliament on July 10, 1874, have unanimously come to the following resolutions: 1. "That Lord Selborne's bill to incorporate the Inns of Court and interfere with their property and internal management, hav-

ing been introduced into Parliament, notwithstanding the unanimous resolution of the joint committee of the four Inns, of March 4, 1874, disapproving of his original draft bill, a resolution since confirmed by each of the four Inns, this committee resolve that the four societies be recommended to take all proper steps for opposing such bill in Parliament if again brought in."

2. "That this committee disapprove of Lord Selborne's bill for establishing a general school of law, and especially for the provision contained in it, whereby students for the bar and the articulated clerks of solicitors shall be under one joint system, and are of opinion that the legal education of students for the bar should continue to be under the control of their own branch of the profession."

SIR HENRY SINGER KEATING will resign his seat in the Court of Common Pleas before the Spring Circuits. The learned Judge was appointed in December, 1859.

The following epitaph for Lord Westbury, suggested by his famous *Essays and Reviews* judgment, at one time circulated through the Inns of Court:—

"Richard Baron Westbury,
Lord High Chancellor of England.
He was an eminent Christian,
An energetic and successful Statesman,
And a still more eminent and successful Judge.
During his three years tenure of office
He abolished
The time-honored institution of the Insolvent's
Court, the ancient mode of conveying land,
And
The eternity of Punishment.
Towards the close of his earthly career,
In the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council,
He dismissed Hell with costs,
And took away from the orthodox members of the
Church of England,
Their last hope of everlasting damnation"

At a banquet recently given to the judges by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, in response to a toast of the Lord Mayor, "The Bench of Ireland," the Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, referring to the ridicule which laymen frequently cast upon the legal profession for their strict adherence to precedents, used the following eloquent language:—"It was said of the judges of the present day that they slavishly followed in the steps of their predecessors; and why not? Were they to reject the accumulated treasures reserved for them in the judgments of the great men who had lived before them? Were they to reject the matchless expositions of the law by Mansfield? Were they to neglect the bright example of Holt, or the deep learning of Hay? No, it should be their pride in humility to study, to understand, to apply, the everlasting principles of justice which these great judges