

CORRESPONDENCE—FLOTSAM AND JETSAM.

he was in public life were of the most pleasant character.

It may not here be inappropriate in recognition of the deserts of those judges who have survived his late Lordship, and with whom he so faithfully and harmoniously served his Sovereign, and of others yet to occupy a seat on our solid and unsullied Bench, to add to this communication the closing words of the speech of Lord Dufferin, uttered on the occasion of a dinner given by him to the judges of the Supreme Court of Canada, at Government House, at Ottawa, on the 18th Nov., 1875, as follows:—

“That, inasmuch as pure, efficient, and authoritative courts of justice are the most precious possessions a people can enjoy, the very founts and sources of a healthy national existence, there is no duty more incumbent on a great and generous community than to take care that all and every one of those who administer justice in the land are accorded a social, moral, and, I will venture to add, a material recognition proportionate to their arduous labours, weighty responsibility, and august position.”

CORRESPONDENCE.

EWART ON COSTS.

To the Editor of the LAW JOURNAL.

DEAR SIR,—I have to thank you for calling my attention to an advertisement of the existence of which I was unaware.

I refer to that which asserts that Mr. J. H. Thom had consented to revise the “Manual of Costs” lately issued. Shortly after the work was commenced, I asked Mr. Thom if he would be kind enough to look over the proof sheets for me, and he at once assented. I offered to pay him a fee for his work, but he declined it, deeming it better while in office not to receive money for such matters. When sending the MSS. to Mr. Cassells, I told him of this arrangement and received a reply that Mr. Thom had no recollection of having entered into it. The advertisement had at this time been running for some months, and I had never had any intimation from Mr. Thom of the existence of any misunderstanding. I cannot imagine how it occurred. I now offer all the recompense in my power. I have instructed the

publishers to return his money to any purchaser who has been misled and desires to cancel his purchase.

Your obedient servant,

JOHN S. EWART.

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM.

CLERK of the Court: “Owen Doherty! are you Owen Doherty?” Prisoner with a merry twinkle in his eye: “Yes, begorra, i'm owin' everybody!”

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, sends to that paper the following account of what happened the other day in Queensland: “A Chinaman had to give his evidence, and was asked how he would be sworn. His reply was, ‘me no care; clack 'im saucer, kill 'im cock, blow out 'im machee, smell 'im book, allee samee.’ He was allowed to ‘smell 'im book.’”

A STORY illustrative of the craze in Chicago for entering the plea of self-defence: Three men quarrelled in a room above a saloon, when one of them fell dead from heart disease. The others were fearful that they would be charged with murder, so one went to the saloon and enticed the bartender out, while the other carried the corpse down and placed it in a chair with its head on a table as if sleeping off a drunk. When the bartender returned, the two men took a drink, saying the drunken man in the chair would pay for it, and went away. The bartender soon shook his customer and demanded his pay. The corpse fell over on the floor, and, as the bartender stood trembling with fear, the two men returned with an officer. The bartender anticipating his arrest, quickly said: “He struck me first.”

Curious comments by a judge, even in the presence of a prisoner, though extremely rare, are not unprecedented. Mr. Justice Maule once addressed a phenomenon of innocence in a smock frock in the following words: “Prisoner at the bar, your counsel thinks you innocent; the counsel for the prosecution thinks you innocent: I think you innocent. But a jury of your countrymen, in the exercise of such common sense as they possess, which does not seem to be much, have found you ‘guilty,’ and it remains that I should pass upon you the sentence of the law. That sentence is that you be kept in imprisonment for one day, and, as that day was yesterday, you may go about your business.” The unfortunate rustic, rather scared, went about his business, but thought that law was an uncommonly puzzling business.