

question, as in a patent case. And so we are not surprised at the story of Lord Kelvin (then Sir William Thomson), the great authority on electricity, who agreed with the consecutive questions of counsel, each assuming what seemed a necessary result of the preceding up to a certain point; but at length to a final question, "Wouldn't you say that so-and-so must of necessity follow from that?" he replied, after a pause, "I wud—if I knew nothing about electricity, but I know a deal." And that cross-examination went no further. The idea that an advocate should only take up a cause in which he believes is, according to Mr. Strahan, at the bottom of the popular distrust of lawyer politicians—a distrust which he says is wholly impersonal, and rarely damages individual counsel who take to public life. We have only to glance at the personnel of the political world to see the truth of this remark. But whatever may be the ethics of the lawyer politician, in his professional life his business is to do the best he can for his client. If he wins, so much the better for his client and himself. For success in winning causes is the best passport to success in the profession. But if he loses, he takes the result philosophically. We have, we are afraid, laid Mr. Strahan's article under somewhat heavy contribution, but we are very far from having exhausted either its stories or its interest.

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Are executors justified in going to the expense of a tombstone? This question is discussed in a recent number of the *Law Times* (Eng.), vol. 146, p. 93. The general rule, as laid down in *Stagg v. Prenter*, 3 Atk. 119, is to the effect that executors are justified in incurring such expenses in connection with the funeral of the deceased as his estate and degree demand. In a more recent case (*Goldstein v. Salvation Army Assurance Society*, 117 L.P. Rep. 63, (1917) 2 K.B. 291) Mr. Justice Rowlatt, while admitting that a tombstone, like mourning, is not generally to be considered as a funeral expense, does not definitely hold that it is not. Under these circumstances it may be desirable to insert a provision in a will authorising executors to go to the necessary expense for that purpose if so desired.