

of judicial dignity (arising sometimes from the persistency of counsel in pressing points—though this is no excuse, as he is within his rights in so doing); delays in deciding cases, etc. But we refrain from comment, even though these matters have been referred to in the lay press; we would merely remark that the avoidance of causes of offence, such as have been publicly stated to exist and as to which we presume there is some foundation in fact, would tend to uphold, and would not impair, the noble traditions of our Bench, and would increase, and not tend to destroy, the kindly and reverent feeling which the Bar has for those of their number who have been appointed to preside as judges. It may be noted that as to some of the occasions on which alleged frictions have recently occurred, the matters before the Court have been connected with criminal procedure. In this branch of the law it has always been recognized that a prisoner has the right to catch at any straw; and it is probably the duty of his counsel to take advantage of and present to the Court any technicality or informality in the proceedings which may aid his client. Judges are appointed for the purpose of hearing such matters as these as well as any other question raised by counsel.

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It will be remembered that Mr. Justice Farwell gave a decision in the *Taff Vale* case, which caused much comment then and since, in reference to labour unions; and this judgment, it is said, was a factor in the growth of the labour party in the English Parliament. It seems to be the lot of this learned judge to deal with cases which bring into prominence such political and governmental problems as these. Last month he gave judgment restraining the corporation of the City of Manchester from municipal trading in acting as carriers and delivery agents for parcels. This brings up the much agitated question of state and municipal ownership. Our English contemporary, the *Law Times*, expresses its pleasure that Mr. Justice Farwell has by his judgment placed some check on the attempt of this corporation to set up in business as carriers, using for that purpose