

The Legal News.

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The decision of the Queen's Bench, Montreal, in *Grégoire & Grégoire*, M. L. R., 2 Q. B. 228, has been affirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada. The appeal in the case of *McMillan & Hedge*, M. L. R., 1 Q. B. 376, has also been dismissed by the same Court. The Judicial Committee, on the 9th instant, dismissed the appeal in *Senécal & Hatton*, M. L. R., 1 Q. B. 112.

The bulk of litigation in the highest Court in England is small compared with the United States and Canada, the enormous costs across the water doubtless tending to discourage appeals. Thus in 1885 there were only 57 appeals entered in the House of Lords from the Court of Appeal. In 1884 there were 55. In the former year there were 16 appeals in regard to real property, 38 in regard to personalty, and 32 miscellaneous. In the Supreme Court of the United States there are about 400 appeals entered annually.

Coming down to the Court of Appeal, in 1885 there were in all 1438 appeals entered, including interlocutory appeals, as against 1428 in 1884. The two divisions of the Court of Appeal sat 414 days in 1885.

The Judicial Committee sat 76 days, during which time they disposed of 40 cases out of 82 entered. They also disposed of 45 motions and petitions.

In the High Court of Justice there were 4,255 causes tried in 1885,—a large falling off from the previous year, when there were 5,405 tried. Of the 4,255, 1,680 were Chancery causes. The total amount of costs taxed in the Chancery Division, in 1885, was £1,286,242, showing an increase of £39,000 on the preceding year.

In the County Courts there were 961,413 cases entered in 1885. In 1883 they exceeded a million. The number of cases tried in 1885 was 586,716.

The law concerning dogs and dog bites, in England, has given rise to numerous complaints, and these appear to be not without foundation. At the hearing of a case in the Bolton County Court recently, damages were claimed from a defendant on account of his dog having bitten the plaintiff. The evidence proved that the dog, a huge St. Bernard, rushed at the plaintiff, a little boy, knocked him down, "tore a large piece out of his right cheek, disfiguring him for life, and shook him as a terrier would a rat." The judge, however, found himself unable to award damages to the plaintiff, because the law requires that the dog must be proved not only to have previously shown vicious propensities, but to have, to the knowledge of its master, been accustomed to bite mankind. The judge declared that "he wished it to go forth to the world that the law relating to dog-bites as it stands is barbarous."

The Court of Appeal in England, in *Lucas v. Harris*, has given an important decision with reference to pensions. *The Law Journal* says:—"The decision of the Divisional Court in *Lucas v. Harris* has been overruled by the Court of Appeal. The Divisional Court were of opinion that the test whether a pension could be attached was whether it was granted for future or past services. The Court of Appeal do not affirm or deny the propriety of this test; but they hold that it is not exhaustive. In *Lucas v. Harris* the pension was solely for past services; but it was granted under the Army Act, 1881, section 141 of which provides that every assignment of and every charge on and every agreement to assign or charge any deferred pay or military reward payable to any officer or soldier of any of Her Majesty's forces, or any pension, allowance, or relief payable to such officer or soldier, shall be void. The decision of the Court of Appeal is to the effect that money made by statute inalienable does not lose its character after judgment, and cannot be at-