

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The preference for common law over the doctrines of Equity survives very strongly in Bramwell, L.J., notwithstanding the provisions of the Judicature Act giving priority to the latter when they conflict with the decisions at law. In *Greaves v. Topfield*, 28 W. R. 845, he ends his judgment with these words, uttered more in sorrow than in anger, we suppose: "I do not know whether I have grasped the doctrines of equity correctly in this matter, but if I have, they seem to me to be—as a good many others of them are—the result of a disregard of general principles and general rules, in the endeavour to do justice more or less fantastically in certain particular cases."

Cases have come under the observations of most practitioners where very great carelessness has been exhibited by commissioners and others in the administration of oaths to, and in the attestation of the signatures of, illiterate persons. Very often a solicitor signs as witness to the execution of a conveyance by a marksman, and appends the information that the document was read over and explained. And very often this statement is illusory and untrue. A note of warning comes, in regard to such loose practices, from a late decision in England. In *Ex parte National Mercantile Bank*, 28 W. R. 848, it was intimated that should a solicitor attest that he had given an explanation of a bill of sale, when he had not, he might be liable to be struck off the roll.

The scheme for the additions to Osgoode Hall is assuming a definite shape, and only awaits the result of a conference between the Society and the Government as to the exact location of the new building before the work begins. This building is to be about eighty feet long by forty wide and fifty-six feet high, and is to be erected

somewhere in the rear of the present easterly wing. It is to be devoted partly to a Convocation Hall, to be used also for examinations, sixty-five feet long, by forty wide and thirty-six feet high, whilst underneath there will be a dining-room, with lavatory and kitchen. There will be also rooms for examiners and students, and the two easterly rooms of the present wing will be made into one, and used as a sort of miscellaneous library. It is expected that the cost of the new building will be about \$25,000.

Lord Justice Bramwell has lately been taking our English namesake to task for some comments on a letter in that journal, in which the writer took exception to certain remarks of the Lord Justice. It is, of course, quite competent for a Judge to uphold his views by letters to the press; but we doubt the expediency of so doing, even though he speaks through the columns of a legal journal. It tends to unseemliness. In the present case the learned Judge felt compelled to characterize the language of his critic as neither modest nor becoming. The editor of the *Law Journal* says, "there was no intentional disrespect," and adds as an excuse, "It is difficult for a writer to be always strictly modest and becoming without being flat." We think it would have been well if the editor had left this unsaid, and the Judge his letter unwritten.

THE DOMINION AND THE EMPIRE.

(Continued.)

II.

Colonial Governor, Colonial Parliament, whoever or whatever does an injustice or resolves on an un wisdom, he is the pernicious object, however parliamentary he be!—*Thomas Carlyle*.

Pursuant to the intention indicated at