

which I am particularly anxious to go into." "Go into it by all means," said the judge, "but do not ask me to go into it. Go into it with my chief clerk; or if you cannot wait till you get an appointment with him—for I do not wish to abridge your lawful enjoyments—go into it alone." On another occasion, a counsel, notorious for his long-winded speeches, was bringing in a great deal of irrelevant matter, when he was thus addressed by the learned judge:—"Mr. X., at any other time or in any other place I should be most happy to converse with you on this or any other subject, but what you are now saying has nothing to do with the case before me, and I must request you to confine yourself to the subject matter of the case." After having thus politely delivered himself judicially, the learned judge proceeded to give an *obiter dictum* on the learned counsel before him, saying, *sotto voce*, "jabbering idiot."

The Vice-Chancellor was often very pointed and pithy in his judgments, as will be seen from the two following extracts, mentioned in the *Solicitors' Journal* :—

In one case, the question was whether the defendant, who lived on one side of the street, ought to be prevented from so increasing the height of his house as to diminish the amount of light coming to the windows of the plaintiff, who lived on the other side of the street. In delivering judgment, the Vice-Chancellor is said to have made the following remarks:—"The plaintiff is an artist. The proposed building will undoubtedly diminish the amount of light which has for the statutory period been in the habit of finding its way into the plaintiff's studio. An attempt has been made to justify this interference with the plaintiff's property, and for this purpose certain considerations have been suggested, which, by the courtesy of the counsel on the other side, have been called an argument. I am told that if the plaintiff's work is to be properly executed, it is desirable that light should fall upon it from only one source; that the studio is sufficiently lighted by a skylight, with which the defendant's building cannot possibly interfere; and that the defendant is conferring a positive benefit upon the plaintiff by removing the inconvenience

which would necessarily be caused by an access of light from other sources. Now, I am not aware that there is any rule of law, or any principle of equity, which confers upon a man's opposite neighbours a right to decide upon the amount of light which is good for him, and I am of opinion that the gentlemen with whom this argument originated are in no danger of suffering from an excess of illumination."

In another case, a plaintiff, who sought to have his name removed from the list of shareholders of a company, relied upon the statement of a witness who had published a pamphlet purporting to show that the company had been fraudulently floated, and that the business had been dishonestly conducted. The witness admitted that his information had been derived from the secretary of the company, whose acquaintance he had cultivated with the express design of eliciting from him something detrimental to his employers. After commenting on the conduct of the witness, the judge said:—"Out of this scurrilous libel, to which the writer of it referred with manifest satisfaction as 'my pamphlet,' the plaintiff has culled and got together a number of odds and ends of incoherent tales, a set of particles and patches and fragments and scraps and rags and shreds and sticks and straws, out of which he has constructed a kind of jackdaw's nest, not without mud enough to hold it together."

Among those who regret the retirement of Sir James Bacon, we should hardly be safe in numbering Mrs. Weldon. If we trust her own account as accurate, one source of material danger to her has been removed. For, according to an allegation made, when an enthusiastic crowd were elevating her to the position of a national heroine, her voice had never, up to that time, recovered from the strain which it had undergone in the attempt to reach the perception of the Vice-Chancellor, who was referred to, with a seemingly sad lack of respect for the judicial bench, as a "deaf old judge." Possibly, however, Mrs. Weldon's *amour propre* suffered even more than her voice at the hands of the stalwart old lawyer.

Another litigant in person of the same sex as Mrs. Weldon met with less success in