

Court Mr. Justice Torrance's order refers the parties."

Costs reserved.

*John L. Morris* for plaintiffs; *W. B. Lambe*, counsel.

*L. Forget* for defendant; *E. U. Piché, Q. C.*, counsel.

## CURRENT EVENTS.

### FRANCE.

**AN AEROLITE CASE.**—An entirely new question of property law, says the Paris correspondent of the London *Daily News*, is about to be tried at Issoudun. In one of the very rare fine nights of this very wet summer, a peasant crossing a field saw what is commonly called a falling star, but it was one of unusual magnitude, made a great noise and touched the earth within a few yards of his feet. Frightened as he was, he went to the spot and picked up a stone of considerable size, which in scientific language is called an aerolite. The rural mind is now relatively instructed, and it occurred to this countryman that what he had found, what, in fact, had dropped from heaven in his sight, must be a rarity and might have a money value. After consulting the school-master of his commune, he took the mysterious substance of no terrestrial creation to the Issoudun Museum, and there received in exchange for it the, to him, wonderful sum of 250 francs in hard money. Short lived was his joy. The proprietor of the field brought an action. He claims either the restitution of the aerolite which fell upon his land, or 10,000 francs damages, which he judges to be the value of it. *M. Charbonnel*, an eminent Paris advocate, is retained for the peasant who picked up the aerolite, and *M. Bollé*, an eminent *avoué* of Issoudun, for the proprietor of the land.

**THE WILL OF THE PRINCE IMPERIAL.**—It has often been said that the true character of a man is to be found in his will: and certainly thousands of persons will discern in the will of the lamented Prince Imperial the signs of a noble nature. It presents a striking contrast to the capricious, confused, and sometimes contemptible documents which are framed to vex expectant heirs, harass the courts of law,

and enrich the lawyers. The dispositions of property are simple, no one seems to be forgotten, and the sentiments expressed in that part of the testament which does not relate to money, are conceived in a spirit of good will to all men, and of devoted affection to relatives and friends. The will is holographic; and therefore, according to the Code, it needed no attestation or publication; and, inasmuch as the Prince must of course be taken to have retained his French domicile and to have been a sojourner in our land, his will could only have been made in accordance with the law of his domicile. Our neighbors have put forth some strange ideas about the exigencies of English law in relation to wills. The *Gaulois* says that the Prince's will was opened in the presence of a solicitor and thirty witnesses, as required by the law of England. Wills, as we know, have often failed in this country from want of compliance with certain statutory formalities in the execution of them; but we never before heard that any particular ceremony was necessary at the reading of such a document.—*Law Journal* (London).

### GENERAL NOTES.

**A BIT OF PARCHMENT.**—A fortune of \$12,000,000 may turn upon a bit of yellow parchment found in a rubbish heap. A Nova Scotia journal says that the agent employed by the heirs of the Hyde estate to go to England has written encouraging reports. He has met the directors of the Bank of England, where the money is deposited. Hyde was formerly in Annapolis, having been sent out by the Imperial Government. He had one daughter born in Nova Scotia. The money in question was left to her after he died. An intimation was sent to this country many years ago asking for heirs. The family of the Hydes in the United States took the matter up and decided that the real heirs were in Nova Scotia. The missing link up to the recent period was proof that the original Hyde was the one who held the imperial commission and went to Annapolis. There was no commission of his to be found. A few years ago an old trunk was sold at auction and bought by a woman for 25 cents. She subsequently broke it up for kindling wood, and in the lining found a parchment document, which she deemed so pretty with the seals attached that she put it away as worthy of preservation. Subsequently she happened to mention the incident to a friend. It proved to be the missing document.—*N. Y. Tribune*.