

## The Legal News.

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The bill introduced by Mr. Weldon, (noticed on p. 73), to authorize the extradition of fugitive offenders charged with certain crimes not included in the Extradition Treaty, was allowed to go on the Government orders, and has passed both the Commons and Senate. The retroactive clause has been struck out, and a clause has been inserted, that the law shall not come into force until proclaimed by the Governor-in-Council. This is intended to give the Government an opportunity of fully considering the policy of volunteering a privilege in favour of a foreign country without any stipulation that there shall be a reciprocal obligation on the other side. The feeling of Parliament, however, is manifestly to send off criminals coming here, without regard to reciprocity.

Happy are they unto whom, in their baptism, their godfathers and godmothers gave but one name, for when they come to be knighted they shall not be perplexed as to what name they shall be called by. The *Law Journal* (London) says that only the first of the Christian names can legally be used in England. Thus "William George Granville Venables Vernon Harcourt" is "Sir William Harcourt," and not "Sir Vernon Harcourt," as he was sometimes called. "In point of law no one can have more than one prænomen, which can only be changed by Act of Parliament, although he may have as many surnames as he likes, and change them as often as he can induce the rest of the world to follow him. His prænomen is given at baptism, or any form of solemn nomination recognised by law, or, in default, on registration according to law. No alteration has been made in the law of the time when baptism was compulsory, which was that a candidate could only have one baptismal name, and the practice of adding a second and more, which came in with the Georges, is in the eye of the law

surplusage. The present Sir Stafford Northcote, created a baronet under that title by the express desire of Her Majesty in 1887, is Sir Henry Northcote in the eye of the law. The patent operates, no doubt, as a royal license to bear the name of Stafford prefixed to that of Northcote and as part of the surname, but not to replace the name of baptism or change it." Our Code of Procedure, however, in Art. 49, speaks of "the Christian or *first names*" of a party, without making any distinction between them, and apparently requiring that they shall all be enumerated in writs of summons. In fact, in the case of *Gauthier v. Callaghan*, in the Circuit Court of Quebec, the action was dismissed, because the plaintiff, who had three Christian names, was described in the writ by the first in full and by the initials only of the other two. (3 Q. L. R. 384). And this, in an action on a note payable to his order, in which he was described in the same way! Other decisions, however, do not support this view. See *Day v. Trial*, 9 Q. L. R. 370; *Pouliot v. Solo*, 5 Q. L. R. 325; *Hearn v. Molony*, 1 Leg. News, 43.

Sir Charles Russell's explanation of his method of work contains nothing new, but some things that bear repetition. "If you ask me," he said, "to reduce the common habit of my life to a formula, I will tell you that I have only four ways of preparing my work. First, to do one thing at a time, whether it is reading a brief or eating oysters, concentrating what faculties I am endowed with upon whatever I am doing at the moment. Secondly, when dealing with complicated facts, to arrange the narrative of events in the order of date—a simple rule not always acted upon, but which enables you to unravel the most complicated story, and to see the relation of one set of facts to other facts. My third rule is never to trouble about authorities or case law supposed to bear on a particular question until I have accurately and definitely ascertained the precise facts. The last rule is not only valuable, but very interesting to me individually, as I got it from Lord Westbury. When a young hand at the bar and pleading