

## FLOTSAM AND JETSAM.

With them will appear Sir Robert P. Collier, who has earned his distinction by fourteen years' service as a paid member of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and Sir Arthur Hobhouse, who has been an unpaid member of the same distinguished body for four years only. Not one of the new law peers is at all likely to fill the place left vacant by Earl Cairns, but all of them give promise of useful service in the Supreme Appellate Court of the United Kingdom, so far as their other duties may allow them to attend its sittings.—*Law Times*.

**DRUNKENNESS ON WHEELS.**—The justices of Hastings appear to have a keen appreciation of the subtleties of the law. Last week a man in a state of intoxication was found being wheeled about in a bath chair, and brought before the bench for adjudication. But, said the justices, he was not found drunk in the street, as the Act requires. The bath chair was in the street, and he was in the bath chair, but he was not in the street. This very pretty distinction would carry the severe logician far. A man in a pair of top boots is not in the street, wherever his boots are, and it would go hard if anyone should be convicted of drunkenness unless he went barefoot. Still no one, looking at the man's discretion in exchanging legs little to be relied on for the smooth rolling wheels of a bath chair, and at so pleasing a display of magisterial acuteness, will grieve at the escape.—*Law Journal* (London).

**MR. ARTHUR'S** quiet return to his law practice from the great office of President of the United States startles the *Liverpool Post*, and it remarks that such a spectacle can be afforded by no country on earth but the United States. Old World potentates are expected to feather their nests well in their days of power, and the idea prevails there that every man holding a high office is entitled to retire rich or in the enjoyment of great pensions. And this robbery of the people is permitted not only for the benefit of those who have served the State, but for those whose ancestors happened to be royal favourites or mistresses. Such ideas are gradually gaining a foothold in this country, as is manifest from the clamour for a civil pension list for ex-Presidents. The spectacle of an ex-President going to work for his living is needed once in a while to assure us that public office is still a public trust, and that we still have men who can hold the Chief Magistracy and retire with clean hands.—*Ex*.

**A REMARKABLE WILL.**—"8th January, 1882. This is my will and testament. At the present moment I consider myself bodily healthy, but cannot swear that I am so in mind. Such ridiculous presumption I bequeath to others. My fortune amounts to 70,000 francs. How many hypocritical tears might I have purchased for such a sum? I intended at first to devote these 70,000 francs to a beneficent object; but I asked myself what would be the use of this? The only benefactors of mankind are war and cholera. Besides this, I am under great obligations to my dear wife, Celestine Melaine, of whose whereabouts I have not the slightest idea. She once did me a great kindness. She left me one beautiful morning and I have never heard of her since then. With the most heartfelt thankfulness I appoint her my heir-at-law but subject to the following condition, that she marry again immediately, so that at least there may be one man who will deeply deplore my death?"

**"OBITER DICTA."**—The Master of the Rolls (Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Baliol Brett), whose elevation to the House of Lords received the hearty approbation of the legal profession, takes the title of Lord Esher, from the well-known village in Surrey, in which he formerly lived, and where his brother, Major Sir Wilford Brett, K.C.M.G., lives. His predecessors in office who have been made peers are not numerous. They are Lords Romilly, Langdale, Gifford, Colepeper and Kinloss. The last-named, who lies in the Rolls Chapel under his effigy in his robes of office, was Edward Bruce, a Scotch lawyer, who came to England with King James. Lord Colepeper was Master of the Rolls in days when law gave way to arms, and earned his title by his services in the field to King Charles I. The rest of the peers named were, like the new peer, distinguished lawyers. The eldest son of the Master of the Rolls is Mr. Reginald Brett, M.P. for Penrhyn and Falmouth, and private secretary to the Marquis of Hartington. The creation not only bestows a well-earned distinction, but secures to the public in the future the services in the highest Court in the [country of one] of its ablest lawyers.—*Ex*.