

GENERAL NOTES.

The death is recorded, July 23, of the Right Hon. Sir Lawrence Peel, aged 84. The deceased, who was a cousin of the late Sir Robert Peel, was born in 1799. After filling the post of Advocate General at Calcutta he was raised to the Chief Justiceship of the Supreme Court in 1842, and retired in 1855. In 1871 he was appointed a member of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

The death of Sir Watkin Williams, a judge of the Court of Queen's Bench, is reported by cable July 18. The deceased was born in Llansannan, Wales, in 1828, his father being rector of that place. He first studied for the medical profession, but abandoned it for the bar. He was made a Q.C. in 1873, and was M.P. for Denbigh (liberal) for several years, and in 1880 was appointed a justice of the Queen's Bench division of the Supreme Court of Judicature.

"What is a kiss?" asks the *Pall Mall Gazette*. "The question can only be answered by experience: *solvitur oculando*. But it is easy after a decision in the Lambeth County court yesterday to say what a kiss is not. It is not legal 'consideration.' A surgeon in Lambeth kissed a workman's wife: the husband valued the kiss at five pounds, and the surgeon gave an I O U for that amount. A month after date an action was brought on this document, but the judge promptly ruled there was no consideration and gave a verdict for the defendant. Perhaps the lady was in court, and the judge may have been influenced by that. For even the poets admit that there are kisses and kisses! The interesting question is whether yesterday's judgment was meant to lay down a general principle, or whether every case must be decided on its merits."

The Supreme Court of Louisiana lately upheld a verdict in trespass for \$700, rendered against a furniture dealer for unlawfully retaking furniture upon failure to pay for it. Say the court: "The unlawful invasion of the pauper's hovel, and abstraction of its scanty possessions is an injury identical in character and magnitude with the like entry of a palace and the despoiling it of its gorgeous apparel."—*Ohio Law Journal*.

The Supreme Court of Georgia has affirmed a lower court judgment on a verdict of guilty of circulating an indecent pictorial newspaper known as the *National Police Gazette*, in *Montross v. State*, 17 Rep. 783. It seems that the defendant violated the law for the express purpose of making a test case, that he was anxious to vindicate the charges brought against it, and with that view and that he might not fail in his object, he sought the chief of police and bestowed on him copies of his paper. The defendant succeeded apparently beyond his own expectations, for he was sentenced to pay a fine of \$1000, or, in default, to labor for one year on the public works.—*Weekly Law Bulletin*, (Columbus, O.)

The retrospective clause in the French Divorce Act will probably have the effect of keeping lawyers and the law courts busy for some time to come. Couples legally separated for upwards of three years will be

entitled to demand a divorce at once, and the application may be made by either the plaintiff or the defendant in the separation suit. The court will, however, have to review the evidence given in the earlier proceedings, and if the facts should seem not to be of sufficiently grave a nature to warrant a divorce it will be withheld. Such cases will, however, it is believed, prove to be exceedingly rare; separations being rarely asked for or granted on grounds which would not warrant a divorce under the act. It is estimated that not fewer than five or six thousand applications will be made under the retrospective clause.—*St. James Gazette*.

The *New York Times* shows that there are in the city of New York only 15,450 persons liable to jury duty. Of 5,646 members of the produce, cotton, stock and petroleum exchanges less than five per cent. are liable. Seventy thousand escape by not having the property qualification, thirty thousand by physical disability, and twenty thousand by military service. The *Times* remarks that "if jury service is to be handed over to the ignorant, the vicious and dissatisfied, the day will soon come when other cities will be taught the lesson which Cincinnati has learned."

That a holiday is a necessity and not merely a luxury, is a fact, which, says the *British Medical Journal*, it especially behooves members of our hardworking profession to remember in the regulation of their own lives as well as in their dealings with their patients. For the brain-worker, periodical remission of accustomed toil has always been a necessary condition of continued vigor. For him the heightened tension of modern life has especially accentuated the need for occasional periods devoted to the recreation and recumulation of energy. The cogent physiological principles and practical purposes of systematic holidays are generally admitted. All workers, if they are to last, must have holidays. For some persons and for some occupations frequent short holidays are the best; with other natures and in other circumstances only comparatively long periods of release from routine are of service. Few real workers, if any, can safely continue to deny themselves at least a yearly holiday. Mere rest, that is, mere cessation from work, while it is better than unbroken toil, does not recreate the fairly vigorous so thoroughly as does a complete change of activity from accustomed channels. For the strong worker, either with brain or muscle, diversion of activity recreates better than rest alone. The whole body feeds as it works, and grows as it feeds. Rest may check expenditure of force, but it is chiefly by expending energy that the stores of energy can be replenished. We mostly need holidays because our ordinary daily life tends to sink into a narrow groove of routine exertion, working and wearing some part of our organism disproportionately, so that its powers of work and its faculty of recuperation are alike worn down. In a well-arranged holiday we do not cease from activity, we only change its channels. With such change we give a new and saving stimulus to assimilation and the transmutation of its products into force. As a rule, the hardest workers live longest, but only those live long who sufficiently break their wonted toil by the recreating variety of well-timed and well-spent holidays.