

ment of humour altogether from courts of justice. And this is fortunate for those whose daily bread is earned in legal tribunals. The robing room would be a dull place indeed, if the solemnity of the Court were the solemnity of a funeral. The lawyer would cease to be *the raconteur* at a dinner party. Yet it is not always the carefully prepared joke of the judge which is recorded in the mind of the practitioner; it is rather the spontaneous incident which occurs in the course of a case which he can so often retail to the delight of his friends.

#### A FEW EXAMPLES.

A County Court Judge once told me that he was amazed at the want of sagacity displayed by some of the solicitor advocates practising before him. He said "The other day an attorney, having opened his case, announced that he was going to cite an authority. 'I would refer your Honour' said he 'to the case of Doe on the *decease* of *Wetherall v. Bird* (1834) 2 A.&E. 161'" Even a Canadian lawyer may appreciate the humour of the word in italics!

Not long since a case was heard in the High Court in which a solicitor was charged with negligence. The judge appeared to take the view that the charge was made out. He said to counsel for the Solicitor: "Mr. A. B., if your client had only paused to think he would never have done this!"

"My lord," was the reply "I have examined the bill of costs. I see charges for perusing documents, writing letters, etc. etc. But there is no charge for thinking!"

#### HUMOUR IN THE COURT OF APPEAL.

Even in the Court of Appeal the lamp of humour is occasionally seen to flicker. It is customary for the Lords Justices to give judgment in order of seniority. In many cases, however, the junior members of the Court are content to express assent to the judgment of the president. On one occasion when the Master of the Rolls was presiding he delivered a long and learned judg-