## The Canada Law Journal.

VOL. XXVII.

text that

1104

arks

Vec

tem

sent.

d to

has

illed

em

heir r in

i to

e in

ons

y **of** or to

heir

ther the

iled

urse. n in

next

BCES.

r or

the

mot

FEBRUARY 16, 1891.

No. 3.

The article which recently appeared in this journal on grand juries seems to have attracted a good deal of attention. In this number we publish a letter on the same subject. We promised to return to the matter again and take up the question of some substitute for the grand jury system. An article on this subject has, however, to stand over until next issue from want of space. We shall be glad for any further views from correspondents who have considered the matter.

In the Law Times of the 17th ult. certain rules of practice are published relating to the retainers of counsel, etc., which have been adopted by the Council of the Incorporated Law Society, and approved by the Attorney-General. We draw attention to these rules because we think something of the kind is needed in Ontario. At present members of the bar and solicitors have no authoritative standard to guide them in the matter of retainers. It is in the interest both of the profession and the public, we think, that some rules on this point should be laid down for the guidance of the profession, and the matter should not be left in its present indefinite and undefined condition. This is a subject which, we think, might not unreasonably engage the attention of the Law Society.

SEVERAL changes of importance have recently been made in the English judiciary, consequent on the death of Sir Barnes Peacock. In the first place, Sir James Hannen, who for eighteen years past has presided over the Probate, Divorce, and Admiralty Division, has been made Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, and will take the vacant place of Sir Barnes Peacock in the Judicial Committee. To supply the vacancy thus created in the P. D. and A. Division, Mr. Justice Butt, the puiene Judge of the P. D. and A. Division, has been made President of that Division, and Mr. Jeune, Q.C., has been made a puisse Judge vice Butt, J. In the valedictory address made by Mr. Inderwick, Q.C., to Sir James Hannen, the learned gentleman characterized Sir James' administration of the law as having been distinguished by "courage, courtesy, and kindliness;" and yet, in his reply, the learned president candidly confessed that he had frequently been irritable, and with some emotion asked pardon of any member of the bar whose kelings he might have hurt. Next to avoiding irritability on the bench comes, a point of merit, the honest confession that it is a fault. Whatever faults of temper the learned judge may have manifested, however, one fact speaks volumes for his successful administration of the law, and that is the remarkably few speals that have been had from his decisions.