FLOTSAM AND JETSAM.

To the many members of the legal profession whom the close of the Long Vacation brought back with reluctant steps from seaside or "centennial," it must have been some alleviation of their regrets to observe the changed and beautified aspect of the Hall which is the scene of their toils. The midsummer weeks have been busily employed in imparting a thorough cleansing and renovation to wall, pillar and ceiling, the beneficial effects of which shew that whatever evil associations may cling to political "whitewash," the value of the commercial article is undeniable. New carpets have been laid down in the court-rooms of the west wing, and we hear that in this respect, at least, Law is to follow Equity before long —thus reversing the time-honoured maxim. We are glad, also, to observe that in beautifying the interior of the Hall, the grounds in front of the building have not been neglected, as their newly gravelled walks and general appearance abundantly testify. The addition to the rear of the main building, now in process of construction by the Government, for the use of the Court of Appeal and the Master in Chancery, is rapidly approaching completion, and may not improbably be ready for occupation by Michaelmas Term. We regret that nothing has been done about a lavatory and other necessary conveniences. Osgoode Hall is in this respect one of the curiosities of the nineteenth century.

This passage occurs in Sir Vicary Gibb's* argument in the Banbury Peerage :† "Age may not be proof of impotency, but it is evidence of it. The probability of the Earl's begetting a child at eighty is very slight, and it is not increased by the appearance of another child two years later. Instances have been adduced for these extraordinary births, but none have been cited, in which a man at eighty-two, having begotten a son, had concealed the birth of such a son. Would not he seek publication rather than concealment? Besides, at the birth of children in families of distinction, it is generally an object of much anxiety to have the event authenticated. Some registry is made of it. None has been found here after the most diligent search. If the register is lost, the date may always be supplied by the banquets and festivities with which it is contemporaneous. Why! the whole country would have resounded with the ringing of bells; you would have had processions of old men upon the anniversary of such a prodigy. It would have excited as much surprise as if a mule had been brought to bed? It reminds me of the lines of Juvenal :—

Egregium sanctumque virum si cerno, bimembri
Hoc monstrum puero, vel mirandis sub aratro
Piscibus inventis, et fartæ comparo mulæ.
Sat. XIII. 64.

In no register, in no will, in no document, is there any notice of this wonderful production. And then, not content with one, the miracle must be multiplied. It was not enough that one child should be born to a man at eighty-two; he must have another when he was eighty-four. And nature consummated her prodigality, by lavishing on these children the strength and vigour which she usually denies to the offspring of imbecility."

Demurrers seem from the following report in the *Law Times* to be *in extremis* in England. We must say we do not see, if the parties agree upon the facts, why they should be put to the expense of a trial :—

* At the time attorney-general.

† Reported in an Appendix to Le Marchant's Gardner's Peerage, pp. 427, 428.