

# THE LEGAL NEWS.

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## CURRENT TOPICS AND CASES.

The decision of Mr. Justice Lynch in *Bouchard v. Gill* has attracted considerable notice, and some of the comments elicited indicate an imperfect comprehension of the point determined. It may be useful, therefore, to place before our readers the exact words of the learned judge, which will be found on another page. Mr. Justice Lynch supports his decision by English authorities. The point is an interesting and delicate one, and it is therefore satisfactory to learn that the case will receive further examination by the Court of Appeal, as suggested by the learned judge who pronounced the decision of the court below.

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The Shortis case has been remarkable in several respects, but in none so peculiar as in the circumstances attending the commutation of the capital sentence, which are disclosed in the papers laid before Parliament. It would be hard to imagine a case less deserving of clemency if the prisoner was sane when he committed the crime of which he was convicted. The jury, after a very long and careful trial, decided that he was sane, and the learned judge who presided, in his confidential report,