forcés, comme Saussier, sa victime. Mais le jury lui ayant accordé des circonstances atténuantes, la Cour d'assises, présidée par M. le conseiller Ducoudray, ne lui a infligé que dix ans de réclusion, peine d'ailleurs toute platonique et qui, par arrêt de la Cour, se confondra avec les quinze ans de travaux forcés prononcés au mois de mai contre l'accusée, pour infanticide.

Me Maurice Roger, du barreau de Blois, a présenté, dans une plaidoirie très élevée, la défense de la fille Pichon. L'honorable avocat s'est associé à l'œuvre de réparation et de réhabilitation qui allait s'accomplir à l'égard de Saussier.

M. le substitut Vigneron, dans son réquisitoire, a regretté vivement que la loi française ne permit pas d'indemniser les victimes des erreurs judiciaires.

GENERAL NOTES.

THE LAW OF MOTHERS-IN-LAW.—In the recent case of *Sawyer* v. *Hebard's Estate*, 2 New Eng. Rep. 189, the Supreme Court of Vermont held that a son-in-law cannot recover for boarding his mother-in-law, unless it is proved that an express contract existed, or a mutual expectation that the board should be paid for. The Court remarked that the case of *Sprague* v. *Waldo* decides that a son-in-law is treated the same as a son in this respect, and added: 'Under the circumstances reported, we cannot regard the intestate's relation to the plaintiff on these several occasions, while staying with her son-in-law and daughter, sometimes at the request and invitation of the daughter, as other than that of visitor. It would be a crime against nature and humanity to give all the courtesies, favours, and visits that are exchanged between parents and children the mercenary quality of dollars and cents.'

THE TWO BRANCHES OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION.—The superiority of English over American judges, of English over American counsel, and of English law reports over American law reports, is due largely to the fact of the existence of a separate professional class known as barristers, whose training is entirely academic and forensic. On the other hand, the frequent failure of barristers in England to be present at the time of trial to attend to the causes in which they hold briefs and the inability of the solicitors who understand the case to appear are, if we may credit our English exchanges, productive of frequent and serious inconvenience. We incline to think that this is a matter to be regulated by that law of natural selection which has built up the legal profession together with the other institutions of civilized life. Experience in America is generally opposed to legislative abridgment of the freedom of contract or of action. In the small town it would be extremely onerous if causes had to be tried by barristers who go out at circuit from large cities, and if the country practitioner were limited to the mere work of preparing causes and instructing counsel. On the other hand, in large cities where the volume of business is great, the very necessity of having a division of labour according to individual taste or adaptability, will in time produce a distinct class of advocates who, though having the power to act as solicitors, will not do so. This has already become so to a very considerable extent.—*American Law Review.*

THE BEEFSTEAK TEST.—The following plan is stated to have been pursued by some officials at the late Worcester Sessions to hasten the decision of a refractory jury who were locked up to consider their verdict. It was past supper time, and the court officials had no relish to pass the night in waiting upon the twelve good men who were so excessively conscientious. A large dish of beefsteak fried with onions, giving off a body of aroma sufficient to fill the largest hall in England, was brought into the passage close to the door of the unhappy jurymen's prison. The bailiff, who wished the "stand-outs" at Jericho, opened the door; the cover was taken off the dish; the aroma of the steaks and onions floated in; it invaded and pervaded every square inch of the black hole; and the jury's nasals were violently affected. Mere mortal Englishman couldn't long stand out against such a remembrance of supper. A second opening of the door and advancement of the dish enabled the jury to find a verdict.—*Irish Law Times.*

A PECULIAR CLAIM FOR SERVICES.—During the civil war, William R. Cripps, of Newport, married Mrs. Elizabeth H. Thurston, whose husband was supposed to have been killed while serving in a Rhode Island regiment; but after the lapse of years the first husband re-appeared, and upon learning the state of things, married another woman. Cripps, a few months ago, turned his wife out of doors, refused to support her, and applied for a divorce, which the judge granted, as the marriage was illegal. The woman was destitute. A lawyer took her case in hand, and brought suit against Cripps for services rendered by his supposed wife as his housekeeper, and secured judgment in the sum of two thousand dollars.

MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE.—The London *Daily Telegraph* gives an account of a case in which a very lamentable miscarriage of justice has just been brought to light. It seems that a man, named David Wilby, who was sentenced to five years' penal servitude, for a robbery with violence, last February, has been set free from Chatham Convict Prison "without a stain on his character." He was employed as groom to a retired contractor, living in Ealing, and his master alleged that Wilby attacked him on a dark night and robbed him of a bag containing £180. Subsequently the prosecutor committed suicide, and at the inquest it was shown that his brain was diseased, and that he had been subject to hallucinations for several years. This fact, and the absence of any corroboration of the story of robbery, sufficed to induce the Home Secretary to send the convict back to his wife and children.