

GENERAL NOTES.

THE RIGHT TO PETITION PARLIAMENT.—The question of the right to petition Parliament was raised in the Westminster County Court before his Honor Judge Lumley Smith, Q.C. Mr. Alexander Chaffers sought to obtain £1 as nominal damages from the Speaker of the House of Commons. The plaintiff deposed that on several occasions he had sent a petition to the Speaker. On each occasion the latter refused to present it. His Honor, without hearing the defendant, said the matter raised was of importance, but he was bound by the decisions of the High Court, which had decided that an individual member of Parliament who refused to present a petition was not liable to have an action brought against him. If the Speaker was bound to present all petitions it must place him in a peculiar position in the event of one being received by him impeaching his own conduct. Judgment for the defendant.

BRIBING A JURY.—It is seldom that we hear of direct attempts to bribe jurymen, either in this country or abroad. This seems to have been tried during the recent trial in Rome of the directors of the Banco Romano. During the trial one of the jury, it was said in several daily papers, received a letter with a bank-note for 1,000 lire wrapped in a piece of paper on which was written the single word "Acquit." Another received a letter and note for 500 lire with the instruction "Condemn." Both letters were brought under the notice of the judge, and as the writers could not be traced, it was decided to give the money to a charitable institution in the capital. The old proverb of an ill-wind, etc., surely holds good here.—*Law Journal*.

"WHAT'S IN A NAME?" says the *Green Bag*, and quotes a Kentucky newspaper as follows: "Benjamin Franklin was lately whipped for stealing chickens; Thomas Jefferson sent up for vagrancy; James Madison fined for getting drunk; Aaron Burr had his eye gouged out in a fight; Zachary Taylor robbed a widow of her spoons; John Wesley was caught breaking into a store; George Washington is on trial for attempted outrage; Andrew Jackson was shot in a negro bar-room; Martin Luther hung himself on the garden palings while stealing a basket of vegetables, and Napoleon Bonaparte is breaking rock for a three-dollar fine in New Orleans.