

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM.

water, dragging his son with him. Luckily the water was shallow and the boy was strong, so he managed to land both himself and his progenitor safely on the bank. His worship, having heard this story, to the amazement of all the foreigners in court, ordered the boy who had saved his father's life to be rewarded with 100 blows. Huang explained to Mr. Giles that it was a principle in Chinese law when a son prosecuted his father to begin by giving the son 100 blows. Chief Inspector Cameron, anxious to save the boy from his undeserved punishment, explained that the police were the prosecutors in the case, and that it was only at their instigation that the boy gave evidence; and Huang then graciously remitted his sentence, at the same time handing over the would-be suicide to the fostering care of his son, who will apparently have to maintain his father out of his slender income of about ten dollars per annum.

Another instance, no less extraordinary, of peculiar justice, as administered in China, shows that the ladies at all events have some pretty substantial rights. This appears by the recent decision of a Court in Foochow. A man being convinced that his wife was unfaithful to him prepared to kill her—a remedy which the law sanctions. His unworthy spouse, however, was too quick for him, and, instead of allowing her husband to kill her, she killed him. This was also recognized by the court as one of the rights which belong to condemned wives, when they can exercise them; and on the conclusion of the trial the woman was dismissed with a reprimand for not having immediately informed the authorities of her husband's death, and thus made arrangements for his burial.

A "BARRISTER" has written as follows to the *London Times* with reference to the *Law Reports*:—

"What, apparently, is wanted is some definite responsible head who should be able and powerful enough to say that this or that case shall or shall not be reported; some one, in fact, to stand between those who wish their cases to be reported and the unfortunate profession who have to read them. I think almost every one will agree that if one-half of the present cases in the Chancery Division were either cut out altogether or cut down to reasonable limits the reports would be all the better for the process. What is the use of reporting the judgment of a judge of first instance at a length, say, of six pages, when one and a-half suffice for the judgment of the Court over-ruling him? What

is wanted is something between the old system and the present, and I would suggest: (1) *That one responsible editor, or two, if necessary, be appointed at a salary or salaries sufficient to make it worth the acceptance of a first-rate man.* (2) *That the reports come out quarterly instead of monthly.* (3) *That it be entirely in the discretion of the editor or editors what cases shall be reported.* (4) *That the reporters be directed to excise argument and unnecessary portions of judgments as much as possible, and not to report every case with witnesses simply because it is one; and I suggest that judges in the Chancery Division, especially, be requested to shorten their judgments as much as possible. I feel sure if this were done the reports would be vastly improved, and lastly, but by no means least, the principles upon which a case is decided would be more looked to than they are now. Owing to the multitude of reported cases, diligent search is now made to find a case whose facts are on all fours with the one to be decided, while half a dozen are passed over in which the principle is precisely the same."*

At a recent meeting of the Judges the absence of a distinguished Lord Justice was stated, by the last of the Vice-Chancellors, to be due to his having other fish to fry; whereupon a learned brother declared that, notwithstanding a popular belief to the contrary, BACON was incurable.

The Lord Chief Justice wished it to be understood that he had no objection to being addressed as "Duke Coleridge," though another judge expressed great annoyance at being styled KAY, C. B., to which title he observed he could not (strange to say) lay any claim.

The genial Sir Richard arrived in a very old gown, which he admitted was a very "Baggallay" array, but apologised for on the ground that it might have been worse—it might have been CORTON.

Mr. Justice Stephen announced that on that occasion he did not propose to offer any "Commentaries."

Sir Henry Hawkins was obliged to run away to play "Old Harry" with a few murderers.

A barefaced Baron felt satisfied that the presence of his brother GROVE would not prevent their enjoying a fair FIELD.

Denman explained that, in calling out D—BRET, he was not alluding to the Master of the Rolls, but was merely asking for a peerage.

The meeting congratulated itself on possessing the light of DAY and a NORTH aspect, but was so prolonged that one member had to CAVE in.