

CURRENT EVENTS.

An American tribute to Hugo Grotius, called the father of international law, will rest in the Nieuwe Kerk of Deft, the Dutch Westminster Abbey. It is the plan to place a memorial window in the church to commemorate the 300th anniversary of his book, "De Jure Belli ac Pacis," published in June, 1625. The Grotius Memorial Fund will be made up of contributions from members of the Bench and Bar throughout the United States. The expense of the collection and preservation of the fund will be borne by the Foundation, so that the full amount collected may go toward the purchase of a memorial window. The organization expects to raise \$10,000.

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The Honourable Geoffrey Lawrence has been appointed Recorder of Oxford in succession to the late Sir Reginald Brodie Dyke Acland. Mr. Lawrence was called by the Inner Temple in 1906.

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At the last sitting of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, Lord Shaw, in delivering the Board's judgment in an appeal from Lahore, which they disallowed, made some observations on the expense incurred. He said that it was agreed that the entire points in the appeal were substantially covered by a reference to a few documents; and accordingly these could have been presented to the Court in a succinct and business-like paper of a few pages. In the present appeal, however, there was printed in India an elaborate book of 1,163 pages containing very many inaccuracies. Their Lordships thought it right to say that, in their judgment, that mass of printing was an abuse. When the Registrar looked at the case some time before the hearing he was of opinion that a large part of the record could not under any circumstances be necessary to put before their Lordships. He, therefore, communicated with the appellants' solicitors, and the latter, after consultation with their counsel, eliminated more than 540 pages. These were actually taken out of the bound book and were never before the Board. Had the judgment been favourable to the appellants the entire cost of that printed matter would have been disallowed.

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We are sure our readers will enjoy the following bit of "professional news" clipped from our lively contemporary, *Law Notes*:—

"*Scandalum magnatum!* We were reading our *Evening Standard* the other night in the train when we were shocked by the following paragraph:—"Sir Henry Duke, President of the Probate, Divorce and Admiralty Division, was presented to-day with the honorary freedom of Plymouth. The magistrate remanded him in custody, 'in order to get the alcohol out of his system,' and intimated that he would ultimately place him on probation." Was it perhaps some confusion between "Probate" and "probation" which led the "comp." into this curious tacking of the last sentence on to the first?"

The Oxford Union Society, undoubtedly the foremost undergraduate debating organization in the world, is celebrating its centenary this year. Some of the greatest debaters at the English Bar have learned their art within the walls of the society. Lord Birkenhead, himself a President of the Union at the age of twenty-one, gives us an interesting sketch of its history in his "Points of View." The *Sunday Times* speaks as follows of the value of the training that this venerable organization provides:—

"The Oxford Union is far more than a debating society. Its traditional procedure gives to its discussions an impressiveness which is of the greatest value in training a man to speak. The largeness of the hall, often well filled; the arrangement of the benches; the dais, and the deference shown to the officers; the free interruption by those listening—all prevent a man from getting up to make 'a few remarks,' force him to cultivate style, to economize his powers, and to make the greatest number of telling phrases possible in a limited amount of time. The Union has, indeed, no longer the spontaneity of its early days; the number of speakers far exceeds the time at their disposal, and this necessitates a selection which has led inevitably to the formalization of the debates."

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In the case of *Akerman v. Muldoon*, tried a little while ago in the King's Bench Division, Mr. Justice McCardie found the facts provocative to his keen sense of humour. Mrs. Akerman, the plaintiff, sought to recover damages for personal injuries received through using a proprietary hair dye called "Inecto Rapid," which was stated to have been sold to her by the defendant, Mr. W. J. Muldoon.

For the plaintiff it was stated that she used the preparation on two occasions and it caused her to contract an affection of the skin, and she suffered great pain and became so delirious that it was necessary to hold her down.

In answer to his Lordship it was stated by the defendant that the dye was permanent, but that as the hair grew half an inch a month it was necessary to touch it up at the roots every ten weeks. The shades, of which there were eighteen, varied from black to light blonde.

His Lordship, in his summing-up to the jury, reviewed the evidence and said that the plaintiff was likely to have a good recollection of the facts. She had decided to vindicate the rights of womanhood to the admiration of men. She applied the dye and went to bed expecting to wake up with brown hair and added felicity; instead she awoke in agony, and was practically blind. It might be that her illness was not caused by the dye, but it was a strange coincidence that the only times she experienced the symptoms were after applying the preparation to her hair.

The jury retired to consider their verdict and awarded the plaintiff £50 damages, and his Lordship certified for costs on the High Court scale.

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Madame Florence de Guile, proprietor of a fashionable beauty parlour, was sentenced in Minneapolis on January 25th to serve thirty days in the city workhouse for violating the State barber law by bobbing women's hair. The charge was cutting hair without a State license.