

OUR JUDICIAL SYSTEM.

Our only motive being to have the subject of our Judicial System ventilated, we give place this week to an article signed "Little Elk," assailing some of our positions. In doing so, however, we must say to "Little Elk" that he has in this instance undertaken a task beyond his powers—a hopeless task. In our opinion it is simply impossible for any man successfully to defend, against the deeply indignant taxpayers, a system condemned alike by all men and by all parties.

"Little Elk" thinks, or broadly intimates at least, that the delays and expenses are chargeable solely to the lawyers, and claims credit for the Bench that "the judges have made some attempts to bridge and hold back the lawyers in their long-winded speeches on the law and facts, which are both in most cases as well understood by the court and jury as the lawyers." Is it true that all the "long-winded speeches" come from the lawyers? But, if true, how does this make in favor of the System espoused by our correspondent? Had not Judge Price and Judge Constable the same "long-winded speeches" to contend with? Those judges made no more than to restrain them. Every lawyer argued his case until he thought he had said everything necessary, without interruption from those distinguished judges, and yet the business was transacted in two weeks. We do not mean to defend the interminable gas for which lawyers are celebrated all the world over, but they cannot possibly waste more time now when restricted to twenty minutes, than they did formerly when unrestrained by any rules of Court limiting the length of their speeches. No one talked more eloquently and learnedly than Judge Constable when at the Bar, but upon the Bench he was as reticent as our distinguished President. He allowed the long-winded lawyers at the Bar to do all the talking; so also with Judge Price. "Little Elk's" logic is this (and we commend it to Dogberry)—under Judges Constable and Price the lawyers discussed every question of law and fact to their and their client's heart's content, and yet there was no delay in the public business, but on the contrary the utmost despatch. Under Judges Robinson, Wickes and Stump the lawyers do not discuss every question of law and fact to their and their client's heart's content, and yet THERE is delay in the public business, and no despatch—therefore the LAWYERS are the cause of delay (!) This is something astonishing to be sure. But again: he thinks the frivolous nature of the cases brought now, is the cause of the delay. HE THEN ADMITS THE DELAY. Does he mean to say it takes longer to try a frivolous, than an important case? But were there no "frivolous cases" during Judge Price's term, and under the one judge system? On the contrary were not the same class of cases before the Court then as now? If he disposed of them "speedily," why cannot the same thing be done now? Cases frivolous and important will not together, make up the number tried formerly.

"Are the judges or the Bar responsible for the time so uselessly occupied by our courts in disposing of such cases?" asks "Little Elk" (rather a delicate question). But if the responsibility lies, as "Little Elk" thinks it does, between the judges and the Bar, and if the Bar is "bridled," as he admits it is, how, under such circumstances, can the Bar be saddled with the responsibility of the delays, surpasses our comprehension. Under the new rules, "bridling" them, the lawyers cannot retract the case—therefore they cause the delay! "Verily a Daniel came to judgment, yet a Daniel!" But we are no special advocate for the Bar. Let the lawyers bear their own sins of whatever magnitude they may be, but "Little Elk's" efforts to shift responsibility for the delay of justice in our Court upon the Bar, in our opinion is a dismal failure.

"Judges Chambers, Eccleston and Hopper, prior to 1851, conducted the business satisfactorily," "Little Elk" thinks. We have no disposition to cast any discredit on the judges. Our complaint is against the SYSTEM, not the men who are judges under the system. Judge Chambers was a most accomplished and learned judge, and under his able administration, the evils of the system may not have been so severely felt, or if felt, may be forgotten now. He sat here over twenty years ago; but the fact is undeniable that in 1851 a Constitutional convention abolished the system, and it is a fair presumption that they had good reasons for so doing, as the members of that convention had lived under the three judge system—Whether the people of that day grumbled at the three judge system or not, we do not pretend to know, but we do know that they almost unanimously abolished it. THE FACT of the abolition is worth a volume of reasoning.

Under the constitution of 1851 Judge Constable came upon the Bench of this Circuit, succeeded in 1856 by Judge Price. The Circuit then comprised Cecil, Harford and Baltimore counties. It so continued till 1864. How then can "Little Elk" talk of the large Circuit as it at present stands? Is the business of Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot and Caroline counties to be compared in magnitude or importance to that of the three counties of Cecil, Harford and Baltimore? We venture to say that there is more business done in Baltimore county Court alone, than in the combined counties of Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot and Caroline. Judge Price, under the one judge system, transacted it all at \$2,000 a year; for it was not till 1864 that his salary was increased to \$2,500. These are facts "Little Elk" AND THEY TELL THE TALK AGAINST YOU.

But our correspondent thinks the criminal cases take the money and

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WHAT TO WEAR IS OFTEN A VEXATIOUS question to decide at this particular time of the year, especially when there are so many establishments claiming the privilege of doing the very best for you. After a careful inspection of the immense stock of Clothing of every variety and price, especially prepared for this season by the Clothiers, BENNETT & CO., Tower Hall, No. 115 Market street Philadelphia, we think you will admit that you cannot do better than by purchasing your spring outfit at their establishment.

FOR LOSS OF APPETITE, Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Depression of Spirits and General Debility, in their various forms, we recommend the PILLS OF CALABRA prepared by CASWELL & CO., New York, and sold by all druggists, is the best tonic. As a stimulant tonic for patients suffering from fever or other sickness, it has no equal. It acts during the season it prevents fever and ague and other intermittent fevers.

Mrs. Nelson offers an assortment of Millinery Goods at city prices.

THE ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF HORSES, Display of Agricultural Machinery HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITION OXFORD AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, To be held upon the Society's grounds in the Borough of Elkton, on the 25th and 26th of May, 1873.

LIBERAL PRIZES are offered upon the various classes of HORSES, and the PRIZES, FLOWERS and VEGETABLES of the season. Agricultural Trains, during the Exhibition, will be run from Elkton to the grounds connecting with Oxford, and all articles intended for exhibition will be taken from the depot to the grounds free of charge. Schedule furnished upon application to the President of the Society.

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