MR. PUNCH IN WIG AND GOWN: THE LIGHTER SIDE OF BENCH AND BAR: WITH 120 ILLUSTRATIONS

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Mr. Punch in wig and gown: the lighter side of bench and bar: with 120 illustrations by Various

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WITH 120 ILLUSTRATIONS

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STATING THE CASE



MR. Puncu has done his share towards bringing about various law reforms. We find him hammering away continually for many years at the Law's delays, its costliness, its inconsistencies, and the evils he has satirised. the inconveniencies he has laughed at have largely been remedied. He makes fun of the jesting judge and the bullying barrister, while he is genially amusing at the expense of the timid and blundering witness, and the

youthful vanity or elderly pomposity of members of the bench and bar. He is rightly bitter now and then when he touches on the comparatively light sentences inflicted on audacious, but wealthy, swindlers, and the comparatively heavy penalties exacted from lesser, poorer, and more ignorant burglars and pickpockets; but in the main he devotes himself to the lighter

Mr. Punch in Wig and Gown

side of law and justice and the professions that are concerned in its administration.

Here and there you come across echoes of famous law suits—of the Tichborne trial, the Parnell Commission; here and there you have reminders of Bradlaugh's fight to get into Parliament without taking the oath; of the days when London was agitated by the Fenian scare and valorous householders were sworn in as special constables, and again when everybody passing into the law courts had to open his bag that the policeman on duty might be assured that he was not carrying a bomb inside it.

The reading matter is particularly apt and good; not a little of it was written by barristers in the intervals of waiting for briefs, and the writers were thus intimately acquainted with the grievances they ventilated, and were often suffering the hardships of the briefless themselves when they sat down to make fun of them.



MR. PUNCH IN WIG AND GOWN

OUR LEGAL CORRESPONDENCE

NOVICE.—(a) Don't, unless you want penal servitude for life. (b) Any respectable burglar. (c) We do not answer questions on chiropody in this column.

HARD UP, — Brougham on Conveyances will explain whether your contract to purchase the motor-car is binding or not.

FARMER.-It is either an "escrow" or a scare-