

# MR. PUNCH IN WIG AND GOWN: THE LIGHTER SIDE OF BENCH AND BAR



Various

# Mr. Punch in Wig and Gown: The Lighter Side of Bench and Bar

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#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

MR. PUNCH IN WIG AND GOWN STATING THE CASE MR. PUNCH IN WIG AND GOWN OUR LEGAL CORRESPONDENCE THE BAR AND ITS MOANING HELPFUL HINTS TO YOUNG BARRISTERS LEGAL EDUCATION **BREACH OF PROMISE** NO JOKE FOR A JURY TO PORTIA AT THE BAR LEGALISED PROVERBS AT CONSCIENCE' CALL SONG OF THE SLIGHTED SUITOR Michaelmas Term—Legal Examination BY A LAW STUDENT IN CHAMBERS THE MODERN CLUTCHES OF THE LAW DIVORCE MADE EASY THE COUNSEL'S TEAR LITIGATION WANTED IN THE LAW COURTS WHAT A BARRISTER MAY DO; AND WHAT HE MAY NOT DO SONGS OF THE CIRCUIT THE JOLLY YOUNG BARRISTER THE LAY OF THE LITTLE BARRISTER LIFTS TO LAZY LAWYERS LINES WRITTEN IN A LAWYER'S OFFICE

EXPLANATION OF ÆSOP'S FABLES FOR DULL STUDENTS **NO JOKE FOR JURYMEN THOSE SILENT BOOTS** WHAT IT MAY COME TO! **PROFESSIONAL LOVE SONG** LEGAL MAXIMS CRIMINALS' ASSURANCE SOCIETY A LAWYER'S CHORTLE **"LAUGHTER IN COURT" MY FIRST BRIEF** WHY SOME OF US GO ON CIRCUIT LAW AND POLICE THE BARRISTERS OF ENGLAND! MONODY ON THE DEATH OF AN ONLY CLIENT THE WAY THEY HAVE AT THE BAR LAW OF DIVORCE **IMPORTANT TO BARRISTERS** LESSONS IN JUSTICE **"TURNING HIS FLANK" "SAUCE FOR THE COUNSEL GOOSE IS SAUCE FOR SOLOR** GANDER" MY FIRST CLIENT **CROSSED-EXAMINATION** BARCAROLES FOR BRIEFLESS BARRISTERS **ON CECIL STREET, STRAND** 

## **MR. PUNCH IN WIG AND GOWN**

Table of Contents





"UP BEFORE THE BEAK"

MR. PUNCH IN WIG AND GOWN

#### THE LIGHTER SIDE OF BENCH AND BAR

WITH 120 ILLUSTRATIONS H. STACY MARKS, SIR JOHN TENNIEL, GEORGE DU MAURIER, CHARLES KEENE, PHIL MAY, E. T. REED, L. RAVEN-HILL, J. BERNARD PARTRIDGE, A. S. BOYD, TOM BROWNE, G. D. ARMOUR, W. F. THOMAS, AND OTHERS.



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#### **STATING THE CASE**

#### Table of Contents



Mr. Punch has done his share towards bringing about hammering awav various law reforms. We find him continually for many years at the Law's delays, its costliness, its inconsistencies, and the evils he has satirised, the inconveniences 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 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**

Table of Contents

### **OUR LEGAL CORRESPONDENCE**

Table of Contents

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 scarecrow; impossible to state definitely without further information.

B. AND S.—There is no reduction (of the fine) in taking a quantity—generally the reverse.

TRAVELLER.—By travelling in the manner you describe, viz., under the seat, you render yourself liable to "stoppage *in transitu*," and to completing the rest of your journey on foot "*in custodia legis*." The authorities on this point are very clear. See *Constable's Reports*, P.C. X. Y. Z., Vol. XIV., pages 72-85.

JUSTICE.—If the defendant lost, you, being plaintiff would win, and *vice versâ*. Consult a solicitor.

STUDENT.—Can only spare space for half your questions. "Aggravated assault" explains itself, an assault which aggravates or annoys you. "Damage fesant," a badly shot pheasant. "Simple larceny," taking an empty purse out of a pocket in which a sovereign is lying loose. "Misdemeanour" is of course the demeanour of an unmarried woman, or in plainer language, the airs she gives herself.

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"Gentlemen, I am ready to admit that his career in the past has not been free from blemish——"

A BRIEF EXISTENCE.—A barrister's.

THE LETTER OF THE LAW.—The "letter of the law" must be x. It expresses a quantity that is unknown.

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A Law Suit.—Wig, gown, and bands.

How to make use of "the Block in the Law Courts."—Try wigs on it.

GOOD LEGAL SECURITIES.—De-Benchers of Lincoln's Inn.





"WHEN THE CAT'S AWAY"---

Mr. Blazer, K.C., returns unexpectedly to his chambers in the middle of vacation.

## THE BAR AND ITS MOANING

Table of Contents

I am watching, I am waiting, And my hair is growing grey, For it is exasperating, That no business comes my way.

Other men in briefs may revel When successfully they plead, I am only a poor "devil," Often worked but never fee'd.

E'en the bank-clerk in the city Has a salary that's small, But we juniors, more's the pity, Don't make anything at all.

Living still on false pretences, Since the truth we dare not own, Some not earning their expenses If the facts were truly known.

And meantime the years are flying, Bringing changes p'raps for some, Not for me tho'; I'm relying On the practice that's to come.

LEGAL MEM.—A barrister is only invited to sit on the Bench when he has had some considerable amount of standing at the Bar.

"A WINDING-UP CASE."—A watch's.



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In ladies' winter costumes.

#### HELPFUL HINTS TO YOUNG BARRISTERS

Table of Contents



"Never miss a chance of ingratiating yourself with the jury, even at the expense of the judge."

(An opportunity often occurs after lunch.)



"Always laugh at the judge's jokes. It is not upon such an occasion that his lordship observes that he *will* NOT have the court turned into a theatre."