

to furnish the explanation and the cause of a tremendous amount of litigation in our own and other parts of the world. A decision recently handed down by the United States Supreme Court is of vital interest and of wholesome value on the subject. That high tribunal holds that an agreement by an attorney at law to prosecute at his own expense a suit to recover land in which he personally has and claims no title or interest, present or contingent, in consideration of receiving a certain proportion of what he may recover, is contrary to public policy, unlawful and void as tending to stir up baseless litigation; that a deed expressing such a champertous agreement is unlawful and passes no title, and that the joinder of another as co-trustee with an attorney cannot give it validity. This decision was rendered, says Bradstreet's, in a case arising in the District of Columbia, where the doctrine of the common law in relation to champerty still prevails.

This sound and sensible ruling cannot be too widely known for the benefit of unsuspecting litigants as opposed to the persuasions and tricks of trouble-breeding pettifoggers. It should be published on the housetops.

STRICTLY A MATTER OF BUSINESS.

All the fears, follies or falsehoods that anxious place-seekers may exhibit or put forth will be of no effect in obscuring the main issue on which the friends of non-partisanship in city affairs are entering the municipal campaign. This issue in its plainest terms is that business men are the ones to choose for the management of business enterprises—the bigger the business, the bigger the men must be—and that no kind of sophistry can show the government of this city to be anything else but a strictly business matter. There is, or should be, no more politics in it than in running a railroad, a mercantile institution, a factory, a workshop or a bank. In any avenue of industry or trade does the employer (who, for the purpose of this comparison may be likened to the community as a whole) inquire what his employers' views upon silver, the tariff, and foreign relations are before deciding to install him? Does he remove or refuse to employ a capable man merely because the latter and himself do not see eye to eye on the issues that cause all the debates in Congress?

It is just so with the management of a city. This particular town has been cursed with too much politics in its local affairs. Every other city of size in the country has had a similar experience. The movement for reform is spreading among them all, and naturally the rounders, the bosses and the office-seekers are in a great sweat about it. But the people are doing some right hard thinking, the result of which is an apparent and expressed unwillingness to dance any longer to the tunes which the professional politicians may pipe. It is a healthy sign of awakening from a condition fraught with peril; it gives assurance that better government with lesser burdens upon the people is a thing near at hand.

THE YEAR'S BASEBALL.

Those who declaim about the decadence of baseball as a popular American institution have not found much evidence in support of their views during the week just now ending. The game on Monday between the Boston and Baltimores on the grounds of the latter club was a battle royal, and it drew out an audience probably

larger than was ever seen before on such an occasion. Subsequent games where either of these clubs has participated have also been liberally patronized, as have their contests in fact all through the season. The cause for this interest in the work of the good teams is not far to seek: the quality of play has been vigorous, exciting, sometimes desperate, but always everything that the most fastidious "rooter" could desire. The two great leaders in this year's series deserve for this the gratitude of all the genuine lovers of the national game, and their example ought not to be without its lesson to the managers of other but less noble competitors who have too frequently descended to the plane and style of the common hippodrome.

While there are a few more games to be played before the season for 1897 shall have ended, the contest for supremacy is now over, and Boston bears off the blue ribbon of the diamond—the highly prized pennant. The club from that city have certainly played in splendid form during some weeks past, and have steadily and relentlessly gained upon the leaders, the dashing Baltimores, until this week they measured issues with the latter upon their home grounds and made them bite the dust. Both last year and year before last the Marylanders (the "Orioles," in base-ball parlance) were the pennant winners by easy margins; for a time it looked as though they would again this year capture the trophy and thus accomplish the altogether remarkable feat of winning thrice in succession. The lusty "Bean-eaters," however, pushed them too hard at the finish, and have humbled their pride. But it is no disgrace to be beaten in so close a race and by such a magnificent team as Boston has had in the field. The exciting finish and the other excellent features referred to ought to give a great impetus to the game next year. There is no use talking, nearly everybody loves to see a hot, clean, rattling game of base-ball. It seems to be in the American blood.

POOR IRELAND.

Seventeen counties of Ireland are threatened with scarcity of food, if not with actual famine this winter, as against fifteen that are reported as not being in any such danger as yet. From three-quarters of the green little isle come reports of crop failure. The conditions leading up to this dreadful result will seem strange to agriculturists in these high chambers of the mountains—said conditions being heavy rains, long continued, which have beaten down the hay and rye crops and have rotted what had been cut; from the same cause the potatoes have failed to mature, and what there are of half-grown, half-rotted tubers are affected with a blight that renders them unfit for food. It is even said that from eating these diseased potatoes four persons have been attacked with acute cholera symptoms, and one case has proved fatal. John Dillon, the well-known Irish patriot and statesman, declares that there is immediate danger of famine, and he demands the convening of parliament at once to provide relief work in advance of absolute distress. In making this demand he is seconded by Timothy Harrington, who asserts that the inhabitants of the western part of the island have nothing whatever to fall back upon, and that unless the government takes immediate action a repetition of the scenes of 1879 and 1847 may be expected. In Glengiaroff the inhabitants along the seaboard are in a state of destitution. They are attacked peri-

odically with famine fever, and they are being pressed for arrears of rent by the trustee of the late earl of Bantry's estate. These arrears originally amounted to £23,000, and were bought by the trustees for £7,000. Having already collected £12,000, the trustees are now trying to extort the remainder. A shortage in fuel also exists, there is widespread discontent and no small degree of despair, and it is almost certain that the approaching winter will witness riots and disturbances of menacing magnitude.

SPANISH ESTIMATE OF YANKEES.

Polished sarcasm is not exactly what one looks for nowadays from the land of the once haughty dons who made the name of Spain feared, if not hated, in all the world; sullenness, threats and some bluster are rather the Spanish weapons of today. But the influential Madrid newspaper, *El Imparcial*, gives us in a recent issue a piquant taste of keen irony, which, though not without its share of bitterness, must be said to be more or less deserved and therefore not unenjoyable. Affecting to acknowledge a debt which Spain owes to the Yankees for the announcement by the latter that the Spanish are an uncultured people, coarse, behind the times, and so forth, the newspaper named agrees that the said Yankees, the standard-bearers of civilization, have a perfect right to feel indignation, for they, both in their own country and in foreign ones, exhibit a fineness of feeling, a delicacy of customs, a love for their fellow creatures, an infinite charity, and a respect for right and justice altogether wondrous and admirable. This is applying the sugar somewhat thickly, but the interesting part is yet to come. We quote:

"Thousands of examples could be offered of their superiority—physically as well as morally. Directly we are going to cite a few of the most recent examples in order that we may be shamefaced, hang down our heads and try to imitate those lofty deeds by which the Yankee proclaim through all the world their perfection in their customs, in their education and in their laws.

"A few days ago there landed at Genoa a detachment of men from the United States ship *Raleigh*. The marines divided into small parties amused themselves throughout the city in a state of drunkenness, and some of the brutal ones refused to pay the expenses incurred in the drinking places; others collected in a line and blocked the progress of peaceful pedestrians; others occupied a carriage and refused to pay for the hire, depriving the poor driver of his fee, so that neither in the consulate nor on board the cruiser could he obtain redress nor find any one to listen to his complaints.

"But this may be an exception. In their own homes the Yankees do not proceed thus. A recent English newspaper publishes the remarkable information that during the last month of July there only occurred in all the towns of the great republic seven lynchings—that is, in the presence of the authorities.

"Seven in one month! A mere bagatelle!

"And, by the way, Philadelphia offered some days ago a high and worthy example of what is a humane spectacle—an entertainment, cultured and refined; a contest between two very famous boxers—the flower and acme of what is brutal and what is brute strength. The arena was resplendent; for the most lowly places one had to pay \$3; a Monte Cristo there would have been able to fill his card case with illustrious names. In the corridors were numerous bettors