GOOD LUCK AND BAD.

From London Society. The annals of our courts of law are peculiarly affluent in giving instances of luck in families. But here, as elsewhere, what is good luck in one direction is sure to turn up as bad luck in another. The representatives of the Duke of Kingston, when they obtained the large sum left as a jointure to his widow, famous and handsome Elizabeth Chudleigh were lucky in proving her former mar-riage with Lord Bristol; but his Duchess, convicted of bigamy, poor and disgraced, had to retire to Russia, where she lived many years before she died. Earl Talbot was in great luck when, ten years ago, the Shrewsbury titles, which made him Premier Earl of England, were assigned to him, and perhaps in still greater luck when, in the following year, the Shrewsbury estates were also assigned to Another remarkable cause célèbre the vast Bridgewater estates were involved, is one which more directly involved

In this case estates to the value of seventy thousand a year were at stake. The Earl of Bridgewater had devised these large estates to Lord Alford, the son of Earl Brownlow, with the proviso that if he died before he had attained the title of Duke or Marquis of Bridgewater, then his heirs should not inherit the estates, but they should pass to the second brother, Charles Henry Cust. Lord Alford died in the life of his father, Earl Brownlow, leaving a son, and without having attained any higher grade in the peerage. Vice-Chancellor Lord Cranworth held that, the condition not having been fulfilled, the estates passed away. An appeal was subsequently brought to the House of Lords, that is to say, to those few eminent personages who are known as the law lords, and to whom the House relegates its judicial functions. It is rather interesting and amusing to attend the House of Lords on the occasion of the hearing of an appeal case. Two or three gentlemen plain clothes are lounging about on the empty seats, paying more or less attention to the monotonous pleading of counsel at the bar, and the vast empty space of the glorious chamber contrasts strongly with the crowded appearance of the narrow section formed by the bar, beyond which none of us dare advance. It must, however, be said that the law lords well earn the five-thousand-a-year pension; and though their body at times rather needs recruiting, and Lord Westbury has a decided tendency to absent himself, its decisions are received with the greatest respect. Their decision in the matter of the Bridgewater estates was decidedly against expectation. The Vice-Chancellor, an eminent, sound, and careful lawyer, had given it against the child Lord The House of Lords submitted a series of questions to their assessors, the judges; and the judges, by a very large pre-ponderance, also gave their voices against the infant. Nevertheless, the House of Lords-that is to say, Lords Lyndburst, Brougham, Truro, and St. Leonards-took a view utterly conflicting with that of the judges of the land and that of the Vice-Chancellor, who at the time of the appeal had become Lord Chancellor Cranworth.

They held that the conditions of the bequest were void, as being against public policy, it being a well-established rule of law that a condition against the public good is illegal and void. All the law lords agreed that the condition was against public policy. They drew pictures, not very flattering, of what ministers might do. A peer of the realm, with seventy thousand a year at stake, might be able to bring mighty inducements and temptations to bear, to which poor human nature must neceasarily succumb. Here would be a young nobleman attempting to prescribe to the Crown what should be his exact title, with its conditions and limitations. Such a condition would bring on parties a painful pressure, an irresistible temptation. Lord Alford might be induced to use all kinds of undue means to gain his elevation. A peer was a judge, an adviser of the Crown, a member of the legislature; and conditions such as these, taking men as they were, and human nature as it is, must necessarily have a tendency to fetter a man's free agency. His mind would be bent less upon his duties, and with a less independent bias, when his fortunes were at stake upon his promotion. Under these circumstances the four law lords, reversing the opinion of the court below, confirmed Lord Alford in the possession of the estates, by holding those conditions to be void according to the non-fulfilment of which he would incur their forfeiture. A constitutional decision by these great lawyers cannot but be received with respect; and yet Lord Cranworth's argument on the other side is very convincing, and so is the opinion of the judges. The pre sent Earl Brownlow may certainly be considered an extremely lucky man in overthrowing such a body of legal opinions, and through the voice of a legal minority gaining such enormous advantages.

And now let us take another cause célèbre. It shall have a stroke of luck in it. One day a man was lounging about in the grounds of Ashton Hall, the fine old seat of the Smythes. He knew the place well. A near relative of his had been housekeeper there for years. He had made it his business to collect all the in formation he could respecting the family. The estates attached to the family were very great, producing a rent-roll estimated not far from thirty thousand a year. The lord of these large possessions, in a broken and uncertain state, was ill at the Hall. The day on which this man was prowling about the grounds was destined to be the baronet's last day on earth. The following morning he was found dead in his bed. That this man was in the grounds that day there is no doubt: the fact is proved and is uncontested. A remarkable sort of man, quite middle-aged, with great precision of dress and manner, sallow, iren-grey, dressed in black; one who described himself as a schoolmaster and lecturer, and who looked the character. This was statedthat this eventful evening he sought and obtained an interview with the baronet; that he announced himself as his nephew, the son of his eldest brother by a previous marriage, the rightful heir of the title and estates which he had so long improperly enjoyed. The old man was thrown into such a dreadful state of perturbation that the visitor added, that his object was to establish his right for his family, and not to disturb him in possession. The baronet was unable to resist the proofs of relationship, and acknowledged his nephew, giving him a fifty-pound note, and promising to make an arrangement. The shock, however, was too much for him, and he died next

Great doubt was thrown upon the statement whether this man, who called himself Sir Richard Hugh Smythe, and whom his enemies called John Provis, ever had this fatal interview with the baronet. However that may be, at his death the estates passed to his daughter Florence and her issue. The claimant, however, by no means lost sight of his case. He sollected a great deal of oral testimony, not forgetting Bible, pictures, seals, rings, certificates calculated to sustain his cause. He was a poor man, and had no means of pushing his elaim. At last lawyers were found who looked favorably on his case, and were willing to stake their money on it. Some mention was

made of a bond of twenty thousand pound; and it was stated that, for every pound al-vanced, there was an annuity to be paid. The case eventually came on for trial at Gloncester, pefore Mr. Justice Coleridge and a special jury. Mr. Bovill, the present Lord Chief Jus-tice, in the absence of his seniors, Sir F. Kelly and Mr. Keating, conducted the plaintiff's case, and Sir Frederick Thesiger led an army of five counsel for the defendant. The claim was that he was the son of Sir Hugh Smythe, who married Jane, the only daughter of Count Vandenbergh, by Jane, daughter of Major Goodkin of Court Macsherry. Sir Hugh Smythe gave his evidence with the utmost coolness. While his own counsel

was examining him, there was nothing to check the easy flow of autobiographic narrative. He recounted his earliest impressious: how, while under the carpenter's reof of the name of Provis, he was treated like a little lord in the village; how ladies of the highest rank visited him; and how the Marchioness of Bath, when he was only thirteen, gave him fifteen hundred pounds which had belonged to his mother, and various documents necessary to establish his birth. He said that his reputed father, John Provis, of Warminster, a carpenter, gave him a Bible, some jewelry belonging to his mother, his father's portrait, and a brooch marked "Jane Goodkin." It was also stated that he was for some time at Winchester School. He gave an account how he had been a lecturer on educational subjects, in this country and abroad, and then turned lecturer on oratory, and actually lectured before the Queen at Buckingham Palace. The truth of this statement was left untested. When, however, the witness got into the hands of Sir Frederick Thesiger, there ensued one of the most memoarble and searching cross-examinations known in forensic history. In the first place, the educational lecturer altogether broke down in his spelling.

Asked to spell "vicissitudes," he spelt it vissicitudes;" and when there was a laugh, he said he could give authority for such spelling in the dictionaries. Asked to spell "scrutiny," he spelt it "screwteny," and insisted to the judge that many persons spelt it that way. He spelt "whom" "whome," and "set aside," "sett asside." In his speaking he had the curious habit of thus doubling his consonants; and one of his signatures impugned as a forgery was "Dobbson," instead of "Dob-This false spelling constantly appeared in the documents, and so impugned their authenticity. He got very restless as Sir Frederick's cross-examination increased in severity. He declared he would say nothing except in answer to a question. He used some insulting expression to counsel. At one time he sat down terrified and exhausted by the paocess of cross-examination. An anonymous letter was sent to the judge, which he produced, urging that he ought not to be unfairly pressed. At 6 o'clock in the evening the cross-examination was suspended till the following morning.

The next morning a telegraphic despatch reached Sir Frederick Thesiger from town. This was a signal instance of the advantages of publicity in trials and of the facilities afforded by the electric telegraph. It was said that the electric wires hanged John Tawell, and they were almost equally fatal to the cause of the pseudo baronet. A jeweller in Oxford street sent word that he could give some important information. Messages were interchanged, and Sir Frederick was requested to ask him whether he had not directed the name of Goodkin to be engraved on the brooch. He now completely broke down under examination. He turned very pale, and asked permission to leave the court to recruit himself. Had he done this he'might have escaped, and have avoided his coming doom. At last, Sir Frederick put the terrible question whether he had not been in jail for horse-stealing during some period of eighteen months, of which he had given a very different account?

Then Sir Frederick, taking up the telegraphic message, amid breathless silence, asked him whether he had not directed the name of Goodkin to be engraved on the brooch by a jeweller in Oxford street, a short time before? The witness acknowledged that he had. There was the utmost sensation at this avewal. Of course there was an end of the case. There were many more witnessesabout a hundred and thirty, including both sides—to be examined, but this utter failure of the principal witness settled the case. The counsel for the plaintiff threw up their briefs. The unhappy man was immediately ordered into custody by the judge for wilful and corrupt perjury, and was received by a javelin in a neighboring apartment. It was stated that there were about eighty witnesses in attendance to disprove every alleged fact in his case; and the Smythe family spent some six thousand pounds in overthrowing this monstrous claim.

He was afterwards tried at Gloucester for forgery, and sentenced to twenty years' trausportation. So heavy were the stakes for which he had played-title and fortune on the one hand and transportation on the other. The whole history of this wonderful fabric of deception came out on the criminal trial. The one strange fact was that he certainly had received some education at Winchester College. Otherwise there never was a clearer case of imposture, without even the slenderest basis for the huge superstructure of deceit. His own sister identified him as the plain workman's son. There never had been the least doubt about his name, though he had turned lecturer and assumed another. His career was traced step by step. It was shown that he was a man of bad character, with a large intermixture of the fool, and at one time had been under sentence of death for horse-stealing.

Hanging-Baskets.

From Hearth and Home. Hanging-baskets are within the reach of all, and the more simple their structure the more graceful their effect. We have seen one made of a cocoanut shell, with the upper section neatly sawed off and scarlet cords attached, planted with moneywort. Its trailing stems, extending half way down the window, filled with its bright, golden blossoms (whence its name), might have graced a Fifth avenue drawing-room, so exquisite were its proportions-so bright its coloring. For larger baskets buy at the wooden-ware shops a wooden bowl, twelve to sixteen inches in diameter. Bore three holes at regular distances fer the cords to support it. Then ornament with rosettes made of halves of the coffee bean not roasted, kernels of rice, and small black soup-beans. Any girl of common ingenuity can make a pretty one with these mate-Attach them to the bowl with common rials gine dissolved in water or whisky; if dissolved in the latter, it does not set or harden until used. When it has dried, varnish with black varnish, which is readily procured, at little expense, at any paint shop or carriage manu-factory. When this is dry, ornament round the edge with allspice berries strung on wire. Now attach the cords, and you have as hand-some a basket as the shops can furnish, and

the expense is very small. A wooden bowl can be ornamented with the scales of the large pine cones. Each scale can be nailed on with upholsterers' tacks, first boring the holes, and, after the bowl is covered, varnishing with brown varnish. Even the varnish can be made at home if one

chooses. Buy two or three onness of asphaltum, and dissolve it in turpentine or kerosene, making it lighter or darker, as one desires, by adding more or less of the asphaltum. Lovely rustic baskets are made of sticks of the oak or maple tree, choosing those of equal size, say the bigness of a man's thumb, outling them of equal lengths, eight, ten, or twelve inches, according to the size of basket desired. The basket is built up like a loghouse, or interlace your fingers, and you will readily see the design. A heated wire is thrust through each end of each stick, then the wire is bent into a loop which holds the cord at the top. A wooden bottom is made, and nailed on to the bottom of the sticks. The interstices are filled with moss, and the effect is charming. Any boy of twelve years could easily make such a basket. We once saw over fifty such baskets hanging in an orchidaceous house, and the effect was beau-tiful. They were filled with a very large assortment of vines, all growing most luxuri-antly, and, we believe, they could not be surpassed for elegance.

Many articles about the house can be used as hanging-baskets. Pretty butter-dishes or sugar-bowls can be made useful for this purpose, by twisting a black or white large bonnet wire firmly round their edges, then attaching curtain-cords to this. Even worn out fly-covers may be applied to this use, first lining them with moss, or cartridge-paper, if moss is not easily obtainable, and filling with We saw one, the other day; in which the variegated and the bright green Tradescantia grew luxuriantly, and made a humble cottage-window a picture of beauty and grace.

As we have now suggested a variety of forms which can be used as hanging-baskets, we will add a list of such plants as will best repay the cultivator, and the soil which should be used for their growth. The German ivy is of the easiest culture, if watered daily (for it loves water, and must have it freely to thrive well); it will grow luxuriantly, and often, even in January, measure its daily growth by inches. The soil should not be too rich; if it is, the leaves are developed too far apart for beauty. What we gain in rapid growth, we lose in grace and loveliness, for the smaller the leaves and the nearer together, the hand-somer the vine: adding a good proportion of sand (scouring-sand will do nicely) will effect this. This ivy puts forth tiny, yellow, downy balls in clusters, but we have only seen it once in blossom, although we have cultivated it for years. Some say that if it is deprived of water during December, it will bloom, but we know not what conditions are requisite. Ours would wilt its life away were it thus punished. English ivy and poet's ivy (so called because it is brought from Melrose Abbey, and is said to have been planted there by Sir Walter Scott) are both easy of culture; but a vine must be two or three years eld before it makes much show. Moneywort is obtainable by all; it grows in most gardens like a weed, and no one would refuse a root of it to the asker. It requires sandy soil and frequent waterings, then its leaves are small and closely set, and the effect is lovely. As we write we look at one growing in a butter dish, made to simulate a green cabbage; its bright leaves fall all around it, and a fringe of scarlet and orange berries from the bitter-sweet vine enhances its beauty. It is a joy forever, and during these dark, sunless, wintry days, words fail to tell what it is

to us. Tradescantia, both variegated and green, grows most readily-a little cutting becomes, before many weeks, a trailing vine of great beauty. While you sleep it grows, and little is the care it asks of you after you have first carefully embedded it in a loamy soil. Lobelias of all hues, Seduins, Vincas, and many other species of vines, grow very readily, and many of them blossom beautifully. The Tom Thumb Tropodum, though rather a large plant for hanging-baskets, will, in a very poor soil, grow well and blossom freely. There are many very desirable vines and plants to be had a the greenhouses for money, but we write this article especially for those who, having but little of it, desire to cultivate some plants that will enliven the home circle, refine the feelings, and soften the heart.

Mechanical Photographic Printing. Photographic printing by mechanical agency is the latest novelty in England. The London papers describe the invention, which was pubely exhibited last month. The Star says:-'Unlike the present me' hod of producing a pho-

tographic impression from a negative, in which the darkening power of salts of silver, &c., under the action of light, is the medium used, impressions so resembling those obtained as to be indistinguishable from them are by the Woodbury process obtained by purely mechanical means in a pricting press. The fact of being able to produce impressions resembling photographs in their beautiful gradations of one, without any necessity for light, and the great multiplying power given by the process, enable an immense number of impressions to be produced in a remarkably short space of time. operation is as follows:-

'A thin film of gelatine, containing bichromate of ammonia, is placed under an ordinary negative, and exposed to light. The effect upon the gelatine is to render it insoluble wherever acted on by the light. The whole is placed in warm water, and the parts of the film where the light has not acted, in consequence of the par-tial opacity of the negative, are soon dissolved away, leaving a mould of various thicknesses. This when dry is placed between two steel plates in contact with a sheet of lead hardened with antimony, and subjected to a hydraulic pressure of from forty to two hundred tons. secording to the size of the plate, which causes the gelatine relief to impress all its details into the metal, and, strange as it may seem, the operation may be repeated with the identical gelatine for, say, forty or fifty times, without its sustaining the slightest injury, and each im-pression upon the metal being as sharp and perfect as the first. The metal plate is ready for the press, whence pictures can be struck off purely mechanically.

"Were this intaglio plate used in the same the ordinary printing ink, the result would be certain masses of black and white, but no hal tones whatever. Therefore, to obtain a print from this plate that shall have all the gradation from black to white, as appear in a photograph it is necessary to revert to another mode of taking the impression. This is done by 'casting from the metal mould—a small quantity of colors. mixed with water and gelatine is poured upon t, a sheet of paper placed thereon. true surface being now brought to bear, all superfluous ink is squeezed out at the edge, and when the gelatine contained in the link has had time to set, the paper is litted off, taking with it the cast or print of the mould. The prints subsequently are passed through a fixing bath. which renders the material perfectly insoluble

by a process analogous to tanning.
"Among the advantages said to be possessed by this process over all others are—the pictures can be produced in any shade of any color, and every copy of the same mould shall correspond in tone; they are perfectly permanent, and, in addition, can be produced in any quantity with great speed and economy. The process is cer-tainly very interesting, and calculated to produce quite a revolution in the copying of photographs. The whole system is to be seen any day in operation at the works at Brompton."

-Taglioni's new ballet, "Sardanapalus," is being prepared for the stage with great magnificence at Dresden. The Viennese scenepainter, Brioschi, has been engaged to paint the decorations for 25,000 florins (\$10,000). -Jeff. Davis and his family are passing the

winter in the south of France. He is said to

be in bad health.

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17,696 77 \$162,299.05 Losses, expenses, etc., same period:-Marine losses...... Fire losses.... Rents and salaries. 11,452 57 Reinsurances and commis-..... 14,774 60 United States taxes... Deductions in lieu of scrip... 6 750 95

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