Chantery, and its records show that in Queen Elizabeth's time the roll of its law students amounted to r12. It was appurtenant to Gray's Inn, as also was Staple Inn, which was of older date and of more importance, having in Queen Elizabeth's time 145 students on its books in term time. Recent editions have made it more readable than the earlier ones. In the middle of the last century Dr. Johnson wrote his "Rastelas" while a resident there, that with the profits he might defray the expense of his mother's funeral and pay some little debts which she had left behind. At the beginning of the present century here lived and worked Isaac Reed, a well-known Shakspearean scholar, and it was in his chambers that Steevens received and corrected the proof sheets of the most popular of all the editions of "Shakspeare." It seems the singular irony of fate that the silent, forgotten, haunted ghosts of law students and hopes of letters should be turned into the headquarters of such a bustling and transitory business as a railway carter's. Yet even in this the genii loci is curiously propitiated. Since the first edition of Smith's "Leading Cases" was published, nearly fifty years ago, no name has been so familiar as a household word in the mouths of judges, counsel, and law students as that of Baxendale, whose successor is the reputed purchaser of the Inns.

The Swiss Presidential Election. The Swiss Confederation, like the United States, has just been electing its President. The President of the Swiss Confederation is more strictly called the President of the Federal Council, which body of seven members is elected by the Federal Assembly of two Houses. The Assembly has just re-elected the Council of 1881 entire, and the presidency has fallen in accordance with custom to the Vice-president of last year, M. Schenck, Radical deputy from Berne. The Radicals, as we have remarked before, are still in a decisive majority in the Federal Council, although the State Council (the second Chamber) they are only in a majority of two, and were returned (proportional representationists will be shocked to hear) by a majority of votes (5,500 against 6,000). One of the first measures which the Federal Council will submit to Parliament is one for raising the duty on alcohol, by way of checking the alarming growth of intemperance. It seems the singular irony of fate that the "gentle loci" should be so curiously propitiated. It is hoped on this occasion to avert the inevitable veto of "Monseigneur Reformateur," as the Radicals call the appeal to the people, by paying over the proceeds of the duty to the relief of local—that is, cantonal—taxation.

Utilising the Open Spaces of London.

Lord Brabazon's annual report of the Metropolitan Public Garden and Playground Association is doubly interesting. It shows what ought to be done for the people as well as what has been done. It seems extraordinary that over seventy-eight open spaces in the very heart of London should until two years ago have remained useless for purposes of health and recreation. Lord Brabazon's association has taken thirty of these in hand, laid them out in gardens and playgrounds, fitted them with gymnasia and seats, and given them over to the local or metropolitan authorities to keep up and take care of. The association is still struggling with forty-eight more open spaces, and with every prospect of success, provided the needed funds be forthcoming, for which his lordship makes a well-timed appeal. The cause is a thoroughly sound and healthy one. It is beneficial to the poor, who want to keep fresh and strong, the rich, who want the air of London kept pure, and so are directly interested in keeping open the lungs of London, which are its disused burial-grounds, its waste places, and its obscure squats. The movement must come from the people who have got it for the people who want it, and the first expense over the district which reaps the benefits pays for its permanence.

"The Law of Burdekinse." Scotch jurists, it is interesting to note, held in early times that circumstances of extreme want excluded the idea of, as they quaintly expressed it, doe (malicious or criminal intention) to an act otherwise criminal. This opinion was founded on an old statute, "of the Law of Burdekinse," which enacted that a man was not to be punished as a thief for stealing a calf or a sheep, or as much meat as one man could carry on his back. The notable gathering in the Fitzwilliam Museum at Cambridge is a noble memorial to Professor Fawcett, and the committee will have some difficulty in making the memorial equally worthy of him. The English ladies are at the Hôtel de Paris, and the poor fellow was so curtain of economic papers. The Pitt Press and the Clarendon Press are managed in these dayson commercial principles; and the others are a bi-centenary of a curious kind has recently been celebrated in Amsterdam, being no less than the celebration of the invention of the thimble. It is just two centuries since last October that the first European thimble was made by Nicolas van Benschoten, a young goldsmith, who devised the "pin" for the protection of the fingers of his ladylove, Hanne van Risseuvel, for thimbles, like many other great things, owe their invention to Cupid. The English were the first to make thimbles on a large scale; but long before either Dutch or English thought of thimbles Chinese ladies were thimbled when they worked at their grand embroidery. The Chinese thimbles bore—and bear to this day—the form of a lovely little flower. There is no such poetry of shape in the Western finger-flower.

Mr. Fowler's Appointment.

We heartily congratulate Mr. H. H. Fowler on his appointment. It was, perhaps, too sudden a leap upwards to think of offering an outsider a post as that vacated by Mr. Courtney, but Mr. Fowler will find the work which he has been accustomed to do by the energetic and homely administration of Mr. Hibbert a useful preparation for the office to which he is now appointed. The "gazetteer," as the Radicalists call the appeal to the people, by paying over the proceeds of the duty to the relief of local—that is, cantonal—taxation.

"A Story of Monte Carlo." A correspondent, writing from the Junior United Service Club, says:—The "Story of Monte Carlo," which recently appeared in the columns of your paper, recalls to me the story of another gentleman, of a post as that vacated by Mr. Courtney, but Mr. Fowler will find the work which he has been accustomed to do by the energetic and homely administration of Mr. Hibbert a useful preparation for the office to which he is now appointed. The "gazetteer," as the Radicalists call the appeal to the people, by paying over the proceeds of the duty to the relief of local—that is, cantonal—taxation.

The Royal Commission on the Housing of the Working Classes. Public opinion will be at once satisfied and disappointed with the important official communiqué published on Wednesday on behalf of the Royal Commission on the Housing of the Working Classes. It will be something of a disappointment to hear that there is no chance of any very large measure being passed during the present session. One of the first measures which the Federal Council will submit to Parliament is one for raising the duty on alcohol, by way of checking the alarming growth of intemperance. It seems the singular irony of fate that the "gentle loci" should be so curiously propitiated. It is hoped on this occasion to avert the inevitable veto of "Monseigneur Reformateur," as the Radicals call the appeal to the people, by paying over the proceeds of the duty to the relief of local—that is, cantonal—taxation.

The Memorial to Mr. Fawcett. The notable gathering in the Fitzwilliam Museum at Cambridge is a noble memorial to Professor Fawcett, and the committee will have some difficulty in making the memorial equally worthy of him. The English ladies are at the Hôtel de Paris, and the poor fellow was so