

HUMORS OF CRIMINAL LAW.

A traveler says that when he was in the city of Mexico he was shown through some of the old buildings, convents and jails that were erected by the Spaniards. In the wall of one of these ancient buildings he noticed a small opening and he naturally inquired of his Mexican guide what it meant. He was told that it was one of the buildings in which criminals were walled up alive. "What was the use of that hole in the wall?" "Well, señor, you see, as long as the prisoner lived his food was handed in to him on a plate and he handed the empty plate back, but when he handed the plate back with the food on it untouched, then the jailer knew the prisoner was dead already and didn't give him any more."

An Indiana colored lawyer, in trying to get his client out of custody, exclaimed: "Da is a law dat's called 'habhis carcass,' an' I'ze going to hab de carcass ob dat client o' mine, dead or alive!"

It costs \$10 for a Chicago lawyer to inform the court that he is "a bloated old rhinoceros." The tariff for naming the judge a "sacred white elephant" has not yet been fixed.

Court (to prosecutor): "Then you recognize this handkerchief as the one which was stolen from you?" Prosecutor: "Yes, your Honor." Court: "And yet it isn't the only handkerchief of the sort in the world. See, one I have in my pocket is exactly like it." Prosecutor: "Very likely, your Honor—I had two stolen."

"And you say that you are innocent of the charge of stealing a rooster from Mr. Jones?" asked an Arkansas judge of a meek-looking prisoner. "Yes, sir, I am innocent; as innocent as a child." "You are confident that you did not steal the rooster from Mr. Jones?" "Yes, sir, and I can prove it." "How can you prove it?" "I can prove that I didn't steal Mr. Jones' rooster, judge, because I stole two hens from Mr. Graston the same night, and Jones lives five miles from Graston's." "The proof is conclusive," said the judge, "discharge the prisoner."

Attorney: "Your Honor, I move for a postponement of this case because of the continued absence of a material, indispensable witness." Squire Dogberry: "Whose indispensable absence is material to what?" Attorney: "To my client's safety, of course."

Criminal Law Magazine, 5 (1884)