

THE COURTS.

The Todd Divorce Case.

The ranks of grass widowhood are being rapidly recruited from the lists of teachers in the public schools. The rule laid down by the School Board in the MacLellan case has not been adhered to, because it threatened to deplete the schools to such an extent that nothing but young girls and ancient maidens and widows would be left to direct the young idea. Since MacLellan was hustled out for applying for a divorce half a dozen female teachers have violated the rule laid down by the Board, and obtained divorces through the courts.

The last case tried was that of Andrew S. Todd against Elizabeth M. Todd. More than a year ago the lady, who is a teacher in the Lyon School, applied for a divorce, but failing to graduate in that large class of litigants, she refused to live with her husband, and went home to her ma. Todd afterwards filed a bill, alleging desertion as the ground of his action. Both parties proved good characters, and the trouble between them was incompatibility. Todd kept a small store, and when he got married he put his wife behind the counter as a tape-measurer and help-meet. The inevitable mother-in-law and some of the other relatives dropped in also, and Todd's nose was kept to the grindstone, and he had hard scratching to make a living. As long as business was brisk and money came in plentifully the young wife appeared cheerful and contented, but when the sales fell off and the cash-box gave but a hollow sound when shaken, dissatisfaction began to manifest itself, and several noses were turned up at the poor Benedict. Then the wife took to teaching, and, being naturally smart and quick, she found she could get along without her Todd. Her failure to get a divorce did not reconcile her to him, and when he came forward as plaintiff her opposition was not very strong. Mr. Young, Todd's attorney, testified that he had tried to reconcile the parties a year ago, and used all his eloquence in endeavoring to persuade the wife to return to the bosom of her lord, but she flatly and emphatically refused to make up, and declared she never would live with Andy again. "When a woman says she won't, she won't," said Mr. Young, and that was the end of it.

A clear case of desertion was made out and Judge Wickham gave the husband a decree, but ordered the child, fourteen months old, to be left for the present with the mother. Mr. T. A. Russell conducted the case for the lady, who appeared to be well pleased with the decision of the Court.