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Justice Courts, "AS THEY IS RUN."—One of the older members of the Hennepin County bar tells us of an experience he recently had in one of the courts of Justice of the Peace. It seems our friend was plaintiff's attorney in a small suit, and that the defendant requested a continuance, which was granted. When the time came around, the defendant did not appear, and the plaintiff's attorney said that he would take no advantage of his absence, and the case could be held open. Subsequently the parties agreed outside that no defense should be made and the plaintiff's attorney went to the office of the Justice with his client to prove it up. Upon his announcing to his honor the purpose for which he came, he was greeted with the remark, "Why, you have judgment in this case already." Tuning to his docket the Justice showed a nice little judgment, entered in due form and signed and sealed several days previous. But the attorney protested that he had not been there and that the case had not been proved up. Finally, the Justice remembered how it was and said, "Now I'll tell you how that happened. One day I was sitting here by the desk, a sudden gust of wind blew all my papers out of the window, and I only recovered part of them. When I got back, I opened my docket and made up my mind that you and your client had just been in and that my memorandum of his evidence was one of the papers lost this way; so I entered your judgment for you. But of course, if you weren't here, I must *scratch out the entry* and hear your evidence and enter a new judgment." And this he did.



This article appeared first at 1 *Minnesota Law Journal* 109 (1893). It is complete. It has been reformatted. The author's spelling and punctuation are unchanged.

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