

signature by touching the pen while a cross or mark is made between the Christian name and the surname, thus—

his
 "JOHN THOMAS X SMITH." [Seal.]
 mark.

- (11.) A firm must not sign as such, thus, "Smith and Jones," but each partner should sign his own name separately.
- (12.) When a contractor executes by attorney, the power of attorney must be produced to show that it gives such an authority, and a duly verified copy of it or an extract should be obtained and attached to the bond, with a statutory declaration that the power of attorney is still in force. In case of doubt, a reference should be made to the Inspector of Post-offices before execution is allowed.
- (13.) An attorney signs the name of his principal thus:—
 "John Thomas Smith,
 "By his Attorney,
 "CHARLES ROBINSON."
- (14.) If the person signing be blind, or cannot read, the bond, and indeed the entire contract, should be read over to him, and, if necessary, explained. The fact that this has been done is noticed in the attestation clause, as mentioned hereafter.
- (15.) When a company executes, the seal is affixed by two or more directors.
- (16.) What has been said above as to the execution of the bond by the contractors also applies to the sureties. The formalities to be observed are the same in each case.
- (17.) *Attestation* is the formal record of a witness that an instrument has been signed in his presence. The form is shown in the bond in use, and all that has to be done is to fill in the full name of the person who has signed, and for the witness to sign his own name (adding his occupation and residence), as shown in the following example.
- (18.) It is assumed John Thomas Smith and William Jones have signed before one witness, so the attestation would run:—
 "Signed by the above-named John Thomas Smith and William Jones in the presence of—
 "FRANK FISHER,
 "Grocer,
 "Manners Street, Wellington."
 If William Jones were blind, or unable to read, then the attestation would be—
 "Signed by the above-named William Jones, by setting his mark hereto, after the above bond was read over and explained to him, he being blind [or unable to read, as the case may be], in the presence of"—
 [Witness to sign as before.]
- (19.) If the bond is executed by attorney, the fact is noticed in the attestation by adding, after the name of the *principal*, the words "by his attorney" (stating his full name). In other respects the attestation would be like the first example.
- (20.) There may be several witnesses to a signature, in which case each witness signs as shown in the example; but, of course, *one* form of attestation is sufficient.