

L A W.

LAW, while it is an exhausting, is also an inexhaustible subject. The arrows of outraged justice have so long been directed in vain at the abuses of the profession, that it is hardly now expected they should penetrate, and no wonder is felt at seeing them fall harmless at the feet of those who appear to "bear a charmed life."

Still, as the grievances of the law's delay and its injustice exist, complaint and abuse will equally continue to assume the shapes of satire or raillery, in the chance of bringing down an adversary. One of these shapes is as follows:—

"To him who goes to law, nine things are requisite. First, a good deal of money; secondly, a good deal of patience; thirdly, a good cause; fourthly, a good attorney; fifthly, a good counsel;

sixthly, good evidence ; seventhly, a good jury ; eighthly, a good judge ; and, ninthly, *good luck.*”

Law has been most aptly compared to an absorbent pipe or channel, through which, whatever is poured into it, never passes ; and its delay and expense have been exemplified by a chancery suit, which, having maintained its conductor for thirty years, is left as a notable legacy to his heir. It has been made a question, whether more than half the estates in this kingdom would not change possessors, was their legality properly sifted. Few, it is thought, would bear the ordeal touch of the lawyer’s quill ; “flaws in the best” might be found—some are “flaw all over.”

Law-terms may, in a great measure, be understood for their opposites ; thus :—

For Action,	<i>read</i> Confinement.
— Brief,	— Length or Delay.
— Securities,	— Uncertainties.
— Deeds,	— Words.
— Settlement,	— Contentions.
— Suit,	— Rags to the Client ; though warm clothing to the Lawyer.

As for justice, it is an obsolete term, thought by some to signify the largest fee; many doubt its existence on earth, and compare it to the perpetual motion, the philosopher's stone, the grand elixir, or any other chimera of the imagination.

It may well be said, that what is one man's meat is another's poison; since it is found that there are those of so perverse a disposition, that they cannot live without litigation, and must be handling the net of the law till they get entangled in its meshes. Characters of this description are principally found in country places, where causes spring up as fast as weeds, and are sure to encumber the richest soils; then there is the game—what a prolific source of envy, hatred, and malice is the protection of game! How many wrongs do the rights of man generate! What a cause of bitterness to a sportsman is the full bag of a permitted shot!

From a box of game may have sprung evils almost as various as those which issued from that of Pandora; and while the London epicure is pick-

ing his teeth after his savoury meal, the purveyor may be paying the expenses in a law-suit, shot in a poaching broil, or taking a trip to Botany Bay.

“Have you got an attorney aboard?” cried old Hawser Trunnion, as he approached an inn; nor could he be induced to enter, till it was ascertained the coast was clear. Such was the pointed satire that Smollet levelled at the birdlime quality of law. The spirit of the law is indeed founded in equity, but it is the business of the litigators to quench that spirit;—hence arises all kind of legal distress, both in town and in country; hence, all that load of wretchedness and misery, that

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God bless my soul! what have I been writing about?—Why surely it is not actionable?—I don't know that; to be sure of it, it will be necessary for me to examine carefully; let me see—units, tens, hundreds, thousands, tens of—I'll count no more. “Let me not think on't, that way madness lies;” the vision of such mighty volumes would appal the stoutest heart.

But what, it may be asked, has Death to do with the lawyer, any more than with the member of any other profession? It comes to him as it comes to all.

It may be so; but there are not wanting instances where the finer network of the brain, and a higher-wrought sensibility of the nerves, have given way to the entanglements and multiplied intricacies of law; till Reason, tottering on its throne, has been at last extinguished by Death.

But though this observation may not be universally applicable, yet we believe it would be difficult to find a character to whom the approach of the King of Terrors would frequently be more ill-timed; for, under the circumstances of professional engagements, every thing that should be done for every body, may be left, in chaotic confusion, to be handled by the unskilful, or scattered into fragments to furnish matter for fresh litigation.

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