

distinguished himself by much facetiousness. Sir Samuel Romilly, who was counsel for the defendant, produced an old brush made by Fox, a well-known wig maker for the Inns of Court, which he contended was the same in principle as the "patent" brush.

"Lord Chancellor: "It's a Fox's brush. Show me the plaintiff's brush."

Thereupon were handed up to the Bench four head brushes, one long broom, one knee-buckle brush, and three clothes brushes, all of which his lordship gravely and deliberately examined, while peals of laughter, unrebuked, resounded through the court. There were more jokes got out of that case, but the above specimen must be taken as a sufficient sample of what followed. Eldon was nothing if not deliberate; and, by the way, it was Romilly who said of him that the tardy justice of the Chancellor was better than the swift injustice of his deputy, Vice-Chancellor Leach. But it was Lord Eldon and another Vice-Chancellor (the first of them), Sir Thomas Plumer, who (rivals in the snail's pace) were referred to in the following epigram:

To cause delay in Lincoln's Inn,
Two different methods tend;
His lordship's judgments ne'er begin,
His honour's never end.

Later on Sir John Leach's swift injustice was compared with Eldon's prolixity in the following lines:

In Equity's high court there are
Two sad extremes, 'tis clear;
Excessive slowness strikes us there,
Excessive quickness here.
Their source twixt good and evil brings
A difficulty nice,
The first from Eldon's virtue springs,
The latter from his Vice.

Those whose criticisms were expressed in prose described Lord Eldon's court as one of *oyer sans terminer*, and Leach's as one of *terminer sans oyer*. But the versifier was not exhausted, and produced the following *à propos* of Leach:

A judge sat on a judgment seat,
A goodly judge was he;
He said unto the Registrar,
"Now call a cause to me."
"There is no cause," said Registrar,
And laughed aloud with glee;
A cunning Leach hath despatched them all;
I can call no cause to thee."

—The Brief.