

his handiwork than does the fly on the chariot wheel. He draws a deed as the fly of yore propelled the chariot and kicked up a great dust. Talk to him of Premises, Habendum or Reddendum. These he affects to despise because beyond his comprehension. Hence the glorious medley of deeds for leases, and estates, for years conveyed by deeds in fee simple. Hence the simple minded farmer, who fearing the approach of death, and intending to leave his property in certain proportions to his faithful wife and hopeful family, often dies really thinking that he has done so, when in fact he leaves it to nobody, or if to any body to the Courts as a legacy, abounding with latent and patent difficulties. Hence the bereaved wife and fatherless children instead of having a comfortable support are driven out upon the world, after expensive but fruitless endeavors to construe the will, and upon the face of it to tell the testators meaning. And worse than all, the author of the mischief—the mock conveyancer—if known is responsible to no tribunal, and is wholly regardless of the sufferings he has caused. He was ignorant of the laws, and the testator knew it. He undertook only to do his best and he did it. With this, the testator was satisfied and he died.

Those who employ "conveyancers" instead of regularly admitted lawyers, to prepare legal documents, fancy they save money by so doing. How vain the fancy is, is only told when it is too late to supply a remedy. And if the object be more than selfish, if it be to cheat the lawyer of his gains, that object is not attained. We remember reading of a dinner party which took place some time since in London. It was a bar dinner, and attended by members of the profession exclusively. One of the toasts drank was "the man who prepares his own will." If the profession were really anxious for the utmost litigation, they could not choose a better plan than that of allowing every man to be his own or his neighbour's lawyer. The consequences of his acts affect rights of property, and in so far as they do so, give rise to interminable law suits.

We write in the interest of the public, not of the profession, when we maintain that something must be done to check the loose system of conveyancing prevalent in Upper Canada. We were glad to see the bill for the purpose introduced during the session before last, by the present Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and during last session by the Hon. Mr. Patton. And we were sorry to find that each bill from some cause or other died a natural death almost as soon as born. It may be that owing to the existing simplicity of titles to real estate in Upper Canada, the mischief is little felt. But every day alters the case. The mischief is being more and more felt as the world grows older. We begin to find complaints on the subject even

in the lay press. We are satisfied that the complaints will increase until the remedy is applied, and that the sooner it is applied the better for the country.

HARRISON'S C. L. P. ACTS.

When, in May 1856, Mr. Harrison announced his intention to edit and publish an edition of the "Common Law Procedure Act, 1856," it was not intended that the work should exceed 400 or 500 pages, and the price fixed was \$5 per copy.

The work, however, grew under his hands; and when it became obvious that instead of 400 or 500 pages, it would probably contain double that number, it was determined to issue the work in monthly parts, till the whole should be completed. This the editor, notwithstanding the increased cost of publication, resolved to do, without increase of price, provided the subscription money were paid in advance.

In pursuance of this determination, several parts, of 66 pages each, were issued, when the amending acts of 1857 became law. Mr. Harrison, anxious to consult the convenience of the profession, and to make his work as useful as possible, then proposed to include the acts of 1857, with notes, in his original work, at an increased cost of \$2 per volume, making the price of the acts of 1856 and 1857 \$7 per copy. He, through his publishers, sent circulars to subscribers to the original work, announcing his intention, and undertaking to carry into effect provided two-thirds of the subscribers agreed to his terms. Two-thirds did so; but for the reasons mentioned in his preface, the project of annotating the acts of 1857 was abandoned, and it was then determined to publish those acts without notes, and to reduce the price of publication from \$7 to \$6. In this form the work was at length published and distributed.

Subscribers therefore received their copies, with the acts of 1857 in addition to the matter originally promised, and for this were charged an additional sum of one dollar per copy, to cover increased cost of publication. With this arrangement the bulk of the subscribers were well satisfied, and have without hesitation paid the extra dollar; but some subscribers, either not understanding the reason of the increased charge, or, understanding it, and determining to take advantage of Mr. Harrison, have, we are sorry to learn, declined to pay more than \$5, the price at which the work was first announced! It is painful to us to advert to such a circumstance. Mr. Harrison, relying upon the generosity of a liberal profession, and upon the honor of brother-practitioners, did much more than he originally promised, expecting that those for whom he toiled would not see him suffer in consequence. It is, however, a plea-