

## UNLICENSED CONVEYANCERS—SHERIFFS' FEES.

## UNLICENSED CONVEYANCERS.

The last but not the least amusing advertisement of that omnivorous class known as *conveyancers* that we have seen is one that commences with these words, given in large capitals,—“Life is uncertain—Death is sure.” The reason of this solemn but somewhat antique warning will be apparent as we proceed. The reader is then told that “Every person should make a will and not leave *their* hard-earned money to be eaten up in law.” Then follows the name of the advertiser. We really must give him the benefit of a free advertisement. The sublime impudence of the man must not go unrewarded. He is styled W. F. Kay, J.P. He lives in a village we never heard of, but doubtless he is there a person of some importance; perhaps a prophet, perhaps the town crier, or perhaps the pound keeper, or a broken-down grocer. But he is not merely a J.P., or otherwise, for he “makes a speciality of writing wills (we are thankful for this at all events), deeds, mortgages, chattle (*sic*) mortgages, leases, agreements of all kinds. Charges moderate.” We should suppose so, doubtless very cheap, and—very nasty.

This is all very funny; but we wonder if it ever strikes the Benchers of the Law Society or the Attorney-General that ignorant charlatans, such as we may safely assume men like this to be, are not only destroying the legitimate business of the profession, who pay large fees for the right to practise, but are actually dangerous to the community. How long will the profession put up with this state of things. We fail to see the justice of calling upon country solicitors to pay fees when their interests are left utterly unprotected. We direct attention to the several letters on this subject published in another place.

In the name of the profession in country places we call upon the Benchers to take some action in this matter. There is no excuse for further delay. The complainants have justice on their side, and if they act unitedly and energetically they must eventually succeed. They are too influential and numerous a body to have their claims for protection pass unheeded. As far as lies in *our* power we shall further all reasonable demands for their relief. It might be that the best thing in the way of a beginning would be to compel these amateur conveyancers to pass an examination before a committee of the Law Society or before the County Judges, with power to take away their licenses for gross errors or misconduct; they should also pay an annual fee to the Law Society, and be made responsible to the same extent as solicitors. We simply throw out these suggestions. It is for the Benchers to make a full representation of the case to the Attorney-General who should at once take action in the matter. What may be done in the premises will be watched with interest.

## SHERIFFS' FEES.

When answering a correspondent in our last issue, we referred to a pamphlet published by Mr. Sheriff McKellar, having for its object the promotion of a Bill to give to Sheriffs certain fees, which, as is therein alleged, are occasionally and illegally taken by attorneys. The pamphlet consists of an introduction, a petition, the comments of the author, embodying a number of bills of costs, affidavits, &c., and a draft of the proposed Act. A correspondent deals with the matter somewhat in detail. We leave that to him.

We are informed that some of the evidence collected by the pamphleteer in support of his case, was obtained partly in the following fashion; and we here