

not. One contemporary poet and dramatist in particular, who seems, so far as we are able to ascertain, never to have been in any way connected with the profession of law, has written as much law—and much good law too (and the same may be said of others) (1)—in one of his plays as we are able to find in any one of Shakespeare's plays: and who has written one passage that contains law terms and legal technicalities enough to confound Blackstone and the Chief Justices of England, as the following will show:

"I think it would be something tedious to read all, and therefore, gentlemen, the sum is this: That you, Signor Cornelio, for divers and sundry weighty and mature considerations you especially moving, specifying all the particulars of your wife's enormities in a schedule hereunto annexed, the transcript whereof is in your tenure, custody, occupation and keeping; that for these the aforesaid premises, I say, you renounce, disclaim and discharge Gazetta from being your leeful or your lawful wife, and that you eftsoons, divide, disjoin, separate, remove, and finally eloigne, sequester and divorce her from your bed and your board; that you forbid her all access, repair, egress or regress to your person or persons, mansion or mansions, dwellings, habitations, remainenees or abodes, or to any shop, cellar, solar, easements, chamber, dermer, and so forth, not in the tenure, custody, occupation or keeping of the said Cornelio; notwithstanding all former contracts, covenants, bargains, conditions, agreements, compacts, promises, vows, affiances, assurances, bonds, bills, indentures, poll-deeds, deeds of gift, defeasances, feoffments, endowments, vouchers, double vouchers, priory entries, actions, declarations, explications, rejoinders, rights, interests, demands, claims, or titles whatsoever heretofore betwixt the one and the other party or parties being had, made, passed, covenanted and agreed, from the beginning of the world to the day of the date hereof. Given the seventeenth of November, fifteen hundred and so forth. Here, sir, you must set your hand." (2)

(1) John Webster's "The Devil's Law Case," etc.

(2) George Chapman's "All Fools," Act IV., Scene 1.