

All the national laws were made and fixed by the Althing and all cases of breach of laws or disputes were settled by the Judicial Court, the lawyers pleading as at the present day for either plaintiff or defendant.

The legislators or law makers of the old Icelandic commonwealth laws, consisted of a pronouncing lawyer, the leaders and two men with each leader. The pronouncing lawyer or declarator was president of the Judicial Court and it was his duty to read and interpret the law and thoroughly explain it to the Althing, or people assembled. The particular place from which the laws were given out was called the 'Logberg.'

As soon as the Althing became recognized as the governing body, the Judicial Court was organized. In the year 965 the whole land was divided into four quarters, namely, south quarter, west quarter, north quarter, east quarter, and at a later date the Judicial Court was also divided in like manner, one court for each quarter. **THE JURY.** If a jury, which consisted of 12 men, were unable to agree on a subject, the case was dismissed and thus many cases were closed without either party getting satisfaction. In the first years of the eleventh century, that is about the year 1004, a High Court was organized; this consisted of a grand jury of 48 men, whose business it was to settle every case brought before them.

Althing was considered a great place to spend a pleasant time and see and hear instructive and entertaining amusements, which made it very interesting to young or old assembled, both men and women, the leaders and farmers to tend to their duties every day. The young people took a great interest in all the proceedings and had great times playing games and hearing stories of other lands, as story-tellers were men of talent and were clever in reciting folk lore of other countries.

The Quarter Things.

When the Althing was thoroughly organized and had become a national affair, the four quarters, east, north, west and south of