

est class. His puns were endless, and often extremely happy. I shall give one as a specimen. On occasion of the first appearance in his robes of a newly appointed judge, a plain country gentleman of fair abilities, and of more than ordinary material bulk, Mr. Erskine took occasion "to congratulate their lordships on the large accession which had been recently made to the WEIGHT of the bench, without diminishing the respectability of the bar." "That's too bad in you, Harry," said the worthy neophyte; to which "Harry" replied, in one of his most aristocratic bows, and the pleadings went on. In common with most of the Lords of Session, the Doric-Scotch was the familiar vernacular of this good-natured senator; and he one day sought to check the vociferating energies of an over-excited advocate, and with most convulsive success, by an interlude perfectly irresistible. "*Mr. F—, dinna skrieach sae heigh, mun; you perfectly dumfounder me.*" I rather think that the amusing era of "Parliament House fun" ended at or soon after the multiplication of "Lords Ordinary," and the division of the chambers. Another "Harry" took away from the bar much of the "wit," when he mounted the bench as Lord Cockburn.

Dr. Davidson often warned the students who visited him, against frequenting auctions, buying useless books, and spending both time and money in something like useless play rather than pleasant recreation. There was need of such cautions, for we did often leave our lessons for the morrow, unfinished, and go down to "get fun," as we counted it, at one or more of the auctions of books, which were of nightly recurrence. On such occasions there was something like oratory of an inferior stamp indulged in by the main actors. I am not sure whether Mr. William Blackwood figured ever on this arena, before the days of Christopher North, but this I know, that his partner, Mr. Robert Ross, opposite the College, figured away from his elevated platform, and dealt out many encomiums on favourite authors, successively falling under his merciless hammer. By far the most popular of all