

appear so much more complicated, more anomalous, more irregular than those of France! Yet there is not a country in the world in which, in the days of Blackstone, the great ends of justice were more completely attained than in England; that is to say, no country in which every man, whatever his condition of life—whether he appeared in court as a common individual or a prince—was more sure of being heard, or found in the tribunals of his country better guaranties for the defence of his property, his liberty, and his life."

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It appears from the February number of the *Law Magazine and Review* (p. 143) that some of the English County Court Judges are given to even more slovenly methods in determining cases before them than their Canadian brethren. In an action (before His Honour Judge Selfe, in the Deal County Court) for damages for the killing of a dog of larcenous propensities, by means of a spring gun, the defendant contended that the gun had been set on the supposition that the marauder was a fox, and that the setting up of a "gun or trap" for the correction of such quadrupedal "vermin" was perfectly legal—quoting "Addison on Torts" (7th ed. 143) in support of this view. Fortunately, however, counsel for plaintiff referred His Honour to the statute in such case made and provided, where the words were found to be "gin or trap." His Honour in pronouncing judgment said the case had been the means of discovering a very serious misprint, which if not brought to light, might have led him to give a different decision to what he would now pronounce," and he awarded the plaintiff £5 and costs. Our Canadian County Court Judges, with a few brilliant exceptions, are often remiss in the matter of research, but we believe there are very few of them who would accept a text-book version of a statute as final and authoritative. Our own limited experience has taught us that errors in the average legal text-book stand "thick as leaves in Vallombrosa;" and, while admitting in this connection the truth of the adage: "Humanum est errare," we are