

## SIR EDWARD COKE.

plication, made a felony by 5 H. 4, ca. 4 (the shortest Act of Parliament that Coke remembered). He says "It is to be known, that there are six kinds of metallis, viz., *aurum, argentum, æs sive cuprum (quia inventum fuit in Cypro), stannum, plumbum, et ferrum*. That is to say, gold, silver, copper, tynne, lead, and iron; for *chalybs*, steel, is but the harder part of iron, and *orichalcum, aurichalum*, viz., lattyn or brasse, is compounded of copper and other things." Then he defines what is meant by "the craft of multiplication"—it is to change other metallis into very gold or silver. And this they pretend to do by a quintessence, or a fifth essence. Four essences or elements we know, fire, aire, water, and earth, but say they, this *quint essence* is a certain subtil and spirituall substance extracted out of things by separation from the four elements, differing really from their essence, as *aqua vitæ*, the spirit of wine, or the like, and this is called *elixar*, or the philosopher's stone, and is part of alchemie, or chemie, in Latine *ars chemica*. The offenders therein are called multipliers, chemists, alchemists, &c."

Next he gives the origin of all things mundane: "How these several kinds of metallis, as is supposed, proceed originally from sulphur and quicksilver, as from their father and mother, and other things concerning the same you may at your leisure read in George Agricola, lib. 10, ca. I.; Encelms, li. I., ca. I., Pl. Com. 339. Almighty God in the fourth day created the earth, and no mention is made of metals, for they were as parts of the earth."

We learn from him that we may be "poysoned four manner of ways: *gustu*, by taste, that is by eating or drinking, being infused into his meat or drink; *anhelitu*, by taking in of breath, as by a poysounous perfume in a chamber, or other room; 3, *contactu*, by touching, and last-

ly, *suppostu*, as by a glyster or the like. Now for the better finding out of this horrible offence, there be divers of kindes of poysons, as the powder of diamonds, the powder of spiders, *lapis causticus* (the chief ingredient whereof is soap), cantharides, mercury sublimate, arsenick, roseacre, &c." Poisoning he considered the most detestable of all modes of murdering, "because it is most horrible and fearful to the nature of man, and of all others can be least prevented either by manhood or Providence." By 22 H. 8, c. 9, it was enacted that one guilty of this crime should be "boyled to death in hot water."

He knew a good deal about hawks however, and speaks glibly of goshawks, and sparhawks, and hawks long-winged and short-winged, faulcons and gerfaulcons.

Much curious and interesting information does our author give us. In the chapter on High Treason, we are given the names by which various Parliaments famous in the days of yore were known, such as, the foolish Parliament; the parliament of white bands; the good parliament; the parliament that wrought wonders; the great parliament; the lack learning parliament; the parliament of bats; the black parliament; the pious parliament; the happy parliament; the blessed parliament.

The rack in the Tower, we are told, was called the Duke of Exeter's daughter, because that nobleman introduced its use.

The difference between bigamy, trigamy, and polygamy is pointed out; "bigamy or trigamy is where one has two or three wives at different times and successively; polygamy where one has two or more at the same time. "By the ancient law of England," we are told, "that if any Christian man did marry with a woman that was a Jew, or if a Christian woman married a Jew, it was felony and