

system now under consideration. With a mind stuffed with mental abstractions, with knowledge chiefly made up of technicalities, although well versed in book-logic, he was, nevertheless, utterly unable to read or to understand the logic of events. Hence, we may naturally suppose that he would prove a stickler for all his vested rights, and would, without any scruples, sternly demand his pound of flesh. The vicious system under which he acted, threw a safeguard around all his exactions, and his victims lay utterly helpless at his feet; and to all their appeals to his better nature, he replied by referring them to the laws both of church and state, which secured to him his tithes. At the same time, he could not remove the impression from the minds of his parishioners, that what he extorted from them by tithe-gathering, was nothing less than legal robbery. And at their social gatherings and convivial meetings, with a full glass, and a hearty good-will, they would drink their favorite toast—"To the death of the black slugs that devour a tenth of the poor man's earnings!"

