

these words familiar to these laymen have ceased, through disuse, to be familiar at the present time, to all except the members of the legal profession and those who have made a study of the science of the law. As one example among many instances. When the layman of to-day reads of "fine and recovery" in Shakespeare's works or hears it mentioned by a member of the Bar, he does not understand it, because there is now no such procedure, and he is at once impressed with the deep learning which he supposes necessary to cope with the use of such high-sounding legal language, but when he realizes that such terms were as well known to all classes then as a *parliamentary closure* is at the present time, he ceases to marvel at the apparent legal knowledge displayed in their use by Shakespeare and his contemporaries.

One of Shakespeare's contemporary dramatists says: "There is another ordinary at which your London usurer, your stale bachelor, and your thrifty attorneys do resort; the price, three pence; the rooms are as full of company as a gaol. If they chance to discourse it is of nothing but statutes, bonds, recognizances, audits, subsidies, rents, sureties, enclosures, liveries, indictments, outlawries, feoffments, judgements, commissions, bankrupts, amercements and of such horrible matter." (1) All of which goes to show that a man with Shakespeare's faculties for absorption could, through mingling with these people, easily have made use of many legal terms without having made any special study of the subject. The same condition seems to have prevailed among other contemporary dramatists as well. Some of these dramatists, it is true, were members of the legal profession, but many of them were

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(1) Dekker's "Gull's Hornbook."