

THE JUDICATURE ACT—SIR EDWARD COKE.

state of things now found only in the pages of some old novel, or heard in the declamations of some disappointed suitor or loud-mouthed demagogue.

If there is any pressing demand for such a sweeping change as is now proposed, though this is not very clear, what would be wanted would be a well prepared measure, fully considered as well by the judges and profession as by the leaders, and the lawyers on both sides of the House, and then passed without any regard to the influences we have spoken of. We do not say that the Bill before us is not a well prepared measure; but it would be impossible without further time to examine minutely its details, to express any opinion or give any suggestions that would be of much practical value. We trust the Attorney-General will stay his hand for the present, or at least enact that the Act shall not come into force until after next session, so as to give an opportunity to make any amendments that may commend themselves to him in the meantime.

SIR EDWARD COKE.

(Concluded.)

Let us now turn to a few of the poetical productions of our author. He courts the Muses indifferently in Latin and in English; sometimes (we presume when he likes the idea) he gives it in both languages. When speaking of "Enchanters," he says:

Carminibus Circe socios mutavit Ulysses.

By charms in rhyme (O cruel fates!)
Circe transform'd Ulysses' mates.

And again,

Carmina de cælo possunt detrudere lunam.

By rhymes they can pull down full soon
From lofty sky the wandering moon.

When discoursing on simony, Coke says: "I have read ancient verses concerning simony and other corrupt entries

into churches, which are not unnecessary, in detestation of them, to remember:

*Quatuor ecclesias portis intratur in omnes,
Cæsaris et simonis, sanguinis, atque Dei.
Prima patet magnis, nummo patet altera, charis
Tertia, sed paucis quarta patere solet.*

Four doors hath every church, and all but one forebod—

(Whereof unseen some may be peradventure,
Of Cæsar, simonie, of kindred and of God;

And each churchman by one of these doth enter:
Great men's command doth open wide the first;

At next by money enter many one,
The third to weak allies, but (for the church the worst),

God's door doth open to a few or none.

In the chapter on buildings, we find a Latin translation by Sir Th. Moor (*sic*) of a passage in Euripides, and an English version by Coke himself. The latter is:

To build many houses and many to feed,
To poverty that way doth readily lead.

In the same chapter we have a list of the "seven wonders of the world," which for memory, may be expressed in these few verses:

1. *Pyramides Memphis*; 2. *Babylonis moeniacclæ*;
3. *Templum ingenis Ephesi virgo Diana tuum*;
4. *Mansoli Carice monumentum*; 5. *Ravaque Pharo*
Turris; 6. *Olympiaci splendida imago Jovis*;
7. *Denique apud Rhodios splendentis statua Phæbi*,
Hæc septem mundi mira, viator habet.

Apropos of light-houses; pharos, sea marks or beacons, we find,

Lumina noctivagæ tollit pharus æmula lunæ,

In light house top is rear'd the light,
As high as the moon that walks by night.

The "distichons" that he quotes are numerous, and he frequently lays Virgil and Horace under tribute to point a moral or adorn a tale. In fact, although Coke affected to despise literature; yet—as a recent writer says—he was a pedantic and villainous verse maker. Among the papers seized by the Government, while he was on his death-bed, was one paper of poetry to his children. The beneficiaries lost nothing if the gift failed.

In the Natural Sciences Sir Knight was not very strong. When writing concerning the use of the craft of multi-