

always will consider a part of the oath essential to obtain a hold upon their consciences. Their consciences are as peculiar as those possessed by certain other witnesses who commit perjury (but think they do not), by swearing to a statement which in one sense is true, but which in the sense intended to be conveyed by the witness is false. Such witnesses appear to consider that so long as their statement is true in one sense they can keep within the law and deliberately mislead the Court for the purpose of procuring a miscarriage of justice. They have a 'legal' conscience such as Freeman, the historian, ascribed to Henry VIII. because that monarch always wished his murders to be done by act of parliament. But, dull as such consciences must be, the oath often has still some hold upon them, if properly administered.

One of the reasons why the oath is losing its moral efficacy is because it is often administered without any reverent sense of the presence of a Supreme, All-Ruling Deity and without any appreciation of the significance of the ceremony and the responsibility of the witness hereafter for what he is about to say. Inasmuch as the words of the oath are not well adapted to impress its obligations, it is most important that the ceremony attached to the administration of it should recognize the solemn character and obligations of the oath. The careless and flippant manner in which the oath is sometimes administered has a tendency to diminish its effect upon the dull conscience of an ignorant, indifferent or unscrupulous person. An official in administering the oath is sometimes heard to mumble something like this,—

"Thevidenshu 'shulgivthecourt—shulbethetruth
 tholetruth—annuthinbutthetruth—takyergluvoft—
 shelpugod—Kiss the book."

If a visitor from another planet were present on such an occasion, and were informed that this mystic performance was intended to put the witness in a frame of mind calculated to speak only the truth, and to call his attention to the existence and presence of a God who will punish all false swearing, the visitor would