

PROFESSIONAL HUCKSTERING—THE HIGH SHERIFF.

want of a proper feeling on the part of the compiler, leads one to suppose that if his capacity is to be taken at his own figures, it must be excessively limited; for example, this learned gentleman thinks that his searching or advising on a title is worth only "\$1.25;" possibly that is enough for it, perhaps too much. But it is not the mere fact of his charging such sums as these for professional services that is so objectionable; the whole thing is foreign to the tradition of the profession, and to the rules and etiquette which should guide it. The individual would probably be gratified by an advertisement gratis, but it is best not to accommodate him. We trust that he will take the hint, and not continue his little effort to reduce the emoluments of a profession already miserably under paid.

We have been requested to call attention to a circular issued to subscribers by Mr. Leggo, with reference to his work on "Chancery Practice." After speaking of what he at first proposed as to the size of the book, and accounting for the delay in producing it, he says:—

"I did, however, after receiving the late Consolidated Orders, prepare a large amount of matter based on Mr. Smith's book, but when I came to compare his work with the last edition of Daniell (1865), I felt that if I persisted in my first intention, I would be unable to do justice to the subject, for Daniell is so far before Smith, and in fact every other author on Chancery Report, that his work is in England an absolute necessity to every good practitioner; I therefore changed my plan, and I have nearly finished a work which embraces *all of Daniell applicable to this Province, besides all our own orders and decisions*, I have also paid especial attention to the practice in the Master's Office. You are of course aware that this portion of the machinery of the Court in England has been abolished in that country, and Daniell is now therefore no guide for us as to it; but I have taken care to reproduce such portions of the old practice as laid down in the earlier edition of Daniell, Smith, Grant and Bennett, as are now applicable, adding to them all the orders and decisions of our own court.

This has materially increased the size of the work. Daniell contains over 2000 pages of practice volumes, besides two volumes of forms the first containing about 1000—the other about

500. There are thus four volumes—the cost of which here is \$42. I think I shall be able to prepare a complete work in three volumes—two of practice and one of forms; for there is a great deal of matter in the English work quite inapplicable to this Province, though I think the practice cannot be condensed, in justice to the subject, into a smaller space than two volumes of 1000 pages each, with one volume of forms of about 500 pages.

A correspondent of the *Solicitors' Journal*, in writing of the difficulties and doubts attending the act respecting the registration of judgments to bind lands, asks, "Would it not be much more simple to empower the sheriff to sell lands as well as goods under the common law process, without recourse to another tribunal for assistance?" We are not sufficiently conversant with the English system to judge of its advantages or disadvantages, but registration of judgments has been done away with in this country for some years, much to the satisfaction of the public and the profession, and the course of procedure which the correspondent suggests has been the law in this country for more than half a century.

SELECTIONS.

THE HIGH SHERIFF.

The office of Sheriff is one of those institutions which, forming an essential part of the machinery of the English constitution, is at once a subject of popular interest and of daily importance to the legal practitioner.

In Serjeant Atkinson's well known work on "Sheriff Law,"—the fifth edition of which has just appeared*—we find described, in a very lucid style, the practical duties at this day of the High Sheriff and his subordinates, as returning officer in the election of members of Parliament and coroners—as judicial officer in the trial of writs of enquiry of damages, and compensation cases, &c.; as assistant to the presiding judges at the assizes and quarter sessions; as chief executive officer in civil and criminal cases in carrying out the judgment and sentence of the law, and as chief conservator of the peace in suppressing riots or resistance to the law.

This short summary of the learned Serjeant's Sheriff law suffices to show how various and

* "Sheriff Law, a Treatise on the Office of Sheriff, Undersheriff, Bailiff, &c.," by George Atkinson. Serjeant-at-Law, B. A., Oxon; 5th edition. London: Sweet, 3, Chancery Lane. 1669.