

cided in 1879, when the word was very young in the language, though the vermin was then very old in the human race. A man named Bailey was a candidate for Congress on the Prohibition ticket. A Kalamazoo newspaper, apparently opposed to his candidacy, published an article to the effect that the candidate had been convicted of stealing whisky fines while a justice of the peace, had lost his position as a minister on the charge of adultery, and was "a pettifogging shyster"; the article concluding with, "Pshaw, these reformers are pretty much alike." The court held that to call one a pettifogging shyster was libellous per se, saying:—

"We think, also, that the term 'pettifogging shyster' needed no definition by witnesses before the jury. The combination of epithets every lawyer and citizen know belongs to none but unscrupulous practitioners, who disgrace their profession by doing mean work, and resort to sharp practice to do it. The defendant successfully justified the charge by proof that such was plaintiff's general reputation."

In *Gribble v. Pioneer Press Co.*, 34 Minn. 342, 25 N.W. 710, a St. Paul newspaper called one "a half imbecile shyster." The Court said:—

"The word 'shyster' defined in Webster to mean 'a trickish knave, one who carries on any business, especially a legal business, in a dishonest way,' is evidently capable of having a reference to the professional character and standing of a lawyer."

We have already suggested that the word is new, but the thing itself very old. Dickens portrayed him, but did not call him shyster. "Pettifogger," the nearest real English word, is defined to be a lawyer dealing only with petty cases. The shyster of to-day hunts big game, and often scorns the little business of the pettifogger.

Thomas Fuller, the attractive English moralist of the seventeenth century, thus scolded the shyster of his time, known as the "common barrator":—

"A barrator is a horse leech that only sucks the corrupted blood of the law. He trades in tricks and quirks; his highway