

conversant therewith; and from such newly formed opinions many improvements and advantages have arisen. But such conclusions should not be hazarded without carefully considering all pre-existing opinions on the same subject, and building up a structure of reasoning, which, at all events, to the mind of the individual satisfactorily proves the conclusion to be correct.—Such an opinion so tested by the former of it will at first be opposed by credulity, which has, before, given its trust to opposite doctrines; but the new doctrine, when tested by other minds, will, in time, if it be worthy of trust, itself become the subject of credulity, and take its place among the generally accredited opinions, by which the bulk of mankind are necessarily and properly guided. Such has been the history of opinion in matters of science, morals, legislation, government, and religion, and such will it probably continue to be. To lay down positive rules to guide in the formation of opinions may be easy, but to carry them out may require the powers of minds which would probably go right without such rules to guide them. The matter has been well summed up by a writer of great antiquity, and I doubt if modern philosophy can go much farther. “That man,” says Hesiod, “is the most excellent who can always think for himself. He, too, is a good man who will take sound advice from others. But he who can neither think for himself, nor will listen to the sound advice of others, is a worthless man.”

In the month of June, Mr. ROBINSON gave us his views on the policy of the law of arrest for debt—which law he most unhesitatingly condemned as impolitic as well as unjust;—and in this view of the subject I am quite inclined to agree—at all events as regards the present system. The object to be attained by all laws in relation to debtor and creditor, is the payment of the debt. If the debtor has property, that property should undoubtedly be made available for that object, and affords the most obvious and ready means by which it may be attained. If there is no property, the creditor is allowed to take the body of his debtor and confine him in prison till the debt is paid. Under some of the older modifications of this law, in some countries, the creditor was, I believe, allowed to take the debtor as his servant or slave. Now, revolting as such a system of forced servitude may appear in these days, I cannot but think, if the period of such servitude were limited to such time

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