

CURIA CANADENSES.

And fiery musquets' deafening roars
Are heard throughout our hapless shores."

In this dreadful state of affairs, we can fancy that the peaceful pursuit of the law was considerably disturbed. The "fiery musquets' deafening roar" would have been as effectual to clear an office of students as a circus band is in these piping times of peace. Happily the lawyers were soon enabled to lay down their arms, and resume their less dangerous, if equally keen, contentions. With what feelings of satisfaction, the reward of duty manfully discharged, they must have exclaimed, "*Cedant arma togæ*," when

"Peace restored and discord o'er,
The volleying thunder ceased to roar,
And Canada the near and far
Emergéd from the din of war."

In the year 1842, just before the union of the Canadas, the legislature was transferred to Kingston, and thither also went the newly-created Court of Chancery. Neither legislature nor court took kindly to that respectable city, and the migration of the court and its return to its present seat are thus chronicled by our author :

"From fair TORONTO'S spire-clad plain
The court vice-regal, and its train
Of Lawyers, Benchers, Pleaders, all
To KINGSTON drag their judgment hall.
Yet here, the law perplexed, distressed
And wandering, Justice knew no rest.

"Her practice cramped and out of place,
Poor CHANCERY felt but ill at ease.
Backward again the vagrant strays,
The stony roads and wooden ways
Of old TORONTO to regain—
Ne'er may she quit that soil again !

"Dreary and sad was Frontenac !
Thy Duke ne'er made a cleaner sack
Than when the edict to be gone
Issued from the vice-regal throne.
Exeunt omnes, helter-skelter,
To LITTLE YORK again for shelter :

"Little no longer, YORK the New,
Of imports such can boast but few :
▲ goodly freight without all brag,
When comes, 'mongst others, MASTER SPRAGON

And skilful TURNER, versed in pleading,
The Kingston exiles gently leading."

If we are not carried away by admiration of the poetical talent of Plinius Secundus, we can at least admire the enthusiasm with which he always speaks of the present centre of laws, learning and light in this Province, and echo the hope that nothing will prompt the Court of Chancery, or any other Court, to "quit this soil again." The author's grounds for his sanguine belief in a great future for Toronto are touched upon in a note, where he says :

"When Bouchette, the Surveyor-General, under the orders of Governor Simcoe, then residing at Niagara, surveyed, in 1793, York Harbour, the site of Toronto was a covey for wild fowl. Two Mississauga families were the only inhabitants, and when the Governor paid a visit in the following summer to determine on the future capital of Upper Canada, his residence was a canvas-covered dwelling. Now, in 1843, the population is estimated at 17,000 ; the census of 1841 was 14,249. You here behold a Governor's palace (!) supreme and other law courts, public offices, a college and university, banking and other companies, handsome streets lighted with gas, wharves, and a capacious harbour."

If Plinius Secundus yet lives and were suddenly set down amongst us to-day, we wonder if he would be able to find his way to Osgoode Hall.

We are reminded of some curious facts in the appendix to the poem. For instance, in the debate on the Chancery Bill, 3d of February 1837, in the House of Assembly, Mr. Gibson, apparently in a severely sarcastic mood, moved, seconded by Mr. McIntosh, that the solicitors and counsel in any cause in the said court should not be allowed *more than one-half of the property in dispute for the costs*. Lost ! Yeas 11 : nays 31. Mr. Prince, seconded by Mr. Gowan, moved the adoption of a schedule of fees in a suit for specific performance, to be used as a precedent, in which the total of costs reached the munificent sum of thirteen