

*THE ADVANTAGES OF IGNORANCE.*

There are occasional advantages in ignorance, and then, the denser the ignorance the better. This reflection comes to us on reading some remarks in reference to lawyers' fees by a learned divine who is reported to have said in a public address: "A man has no right to go into a profession for fees, for money. I am simply astounded at the lawyers' fees I read about. The fees of lawyers are, many of them, most unaccountable to me." A bull in a china shop would not have half so much fun if he were troubled with any qualms of conscience. Ignorance, therefore, for him, is bliss, as it is also for the preacher who thus airs his ignorance and cheerfully makes uncharitable remarks about other people. The principle of supply and demand is also a thing unknown to him. For our part we confess our ignorance as to the amount of this minister's salary, but we can only say that if it is small it is because he is not worth more, whilst if it is large it is so to the extent that he tickles the ears of his congregation. Brains and experience should demand their fair value; but lawyers as a rule are, in proportion to the accompanying conditions, paid less for their services than any other class in the community. Those of them who make most make less, for example, than a successful bank manager, though probably their advice frequently saves these managers from bringing disaster to their banks. "Ne sutor ultra crepidem" might be pondered to advantage by the minister in question, who is also reported to have said, "I would that I had but half the chance some lawyers have of doing good." It might perhaps occur to him, in some moment of introspection, to think that his best way of doing good would be to listen to what the Iron Duke said when he advised an equally erratic presbyter to attend to his marching orders, which he said, were to preach the gospel and not to prate about things of which he was profoundly ignorant. It might also have occurred to him that he, presumably, entered the ministry (and is well paid) for the very purpose of "doing good," so that he ought to have even more than "half the chance" lawyers have in that regard. But as to this we assert without fear of con-