One source of this is, undoubtedly, to be traced to the prevailing depression in trade, but there are other causes at work. The public, and especially the shop-owning public, is showing a marked preference for arbitrations as compared with legal proceedings, and a large proportion of these arbitrations are conducted without professional advice or assistance. One cannot blame them even from a professional point of view, for it is merely futile to expect men to enter into actions at law when the expense of keeping the witnesses waiting for trial alone is often greater than the amount of the subject of dispute. This view is not original but comes from the lips of a practical ship-owner who is a member Parliament, and a man who has considerable experience in litigation. Another cause is to be found in the unrighteous severity of the taxing masters who seize every possible opportunity of disallowing the costs of two counsel. The result is that solicitors naturally incline to employ but one barrister wherever it is possible, and the consequence of that is that business is not righteously distributed. There is another effect produced, which Pearson J., animadverted upon yesterday in discussing the case of *Llanover* v. *Homfray*. The effect is that leading counsel cannot do their work honestly or properly, and junior counsel cannot learn their business in a practical manner. It is not too strong to say that in every solicitor's office there is a strong and proper feeling of indignation at the parsimonious spirit in which the rules are administered. Besides this, it is only fair to add that both the New Rules and the Bankruptcy Act have combined to render litigation an indulgence visited with heavy penalties which especially fall upon the shoulders of practitioners. It is not long since a solicitor was heard to remark that, if he had only had no business, he would have been a rich instead of a poor man.

Mrs Weldon and Mr. Bradlaugh have set an example to suitors which is being largely followed. Of the former, mention has been made before; she has considerably impared her reputation both as an advocate and a sane women by certain actions which she has appeared in of late, and by her public conduct. There is nothing absolutely disreputable in appearing at a music hall as a performer, but it is not the sort of conduct that commends itself to the judgment of society as indicative of prudent and ladylike taste. Mr. Bradlaugh has another action coming on soon. Whether he will be represented by counsel or no is unknown, but it a notorious saying that upon points of law he prefers to use his own judgment, but when a vast array of facts is to be marshalled he likes to make use of a trained legal intellect. This is not complimentary to the English Bar, but it must be admitted that the litigious member for Northampton has been very successful of late. The worst and latest example of the practice of appearing in person is a gentleman of the name of Stanbury who wears his hair long, tied with a ribbon, or passed through a gold ring, and is reported to have brought an unsuccesful action against his father for slander in describing him as a hopeless lunatic. He babbles in the Divisional Court periodically, but no one has yet been able to recognize his present aim, unless it be to suffer the martyrdom of a committal for contempt. As to the original cause of action, most people are of opinion that, apart from all questions of privilege, a father is more likely than any one else to form a correct estimate of the intellectual capacities of a son. Moreover, there is every evidence to show that the judgment was justly formed as well as tersely expressed.

Two important cases have been decided of late. In *Bird* v. *Lord Greville* Mr. Justice Field applied the old established