

Voici monsieur l'abbé que Dieu^g (Near you rests monsieur l'abbé, whom may heaven watch over).

Not only were the peasants compelled to beat the frog ponds, but during the operation, in order to keep themselves awake, they were expected to croak out (in a subdued voice, we should imagine) this cabalistic formula. The performance of the croaking service was confined to those vassals whose lands had on that condition been freed from *servitude*. A large portion of the volume before us is taken up in discussing this custom, of which few instances can be found; amongst others, the case of a drowsy German Emperor is adduced, who having to sojourn over night in the village of Freinsenn, was threatened of being kept awake by the concerts of frogs; fortunately for his Highness, the peasantry mustered in time and compelled Aristophanes' noisy heroes to knock under, on which the mighty Emperor freed his considerate vassals. Although it is said that at one time it was considered a special seigniorial privilege for a Baronial Benedict to sleep soundly on his wedding night, nothing exists to show that this was the real cause why Mynheer Deutchman had so highly prized his uninterrupted nap; the probability is that he felt tired after travelling and wanted more than "forty winks."

Mr. Véuillot thinks that this *Droit de Grenouillage* was not a whit more humiliating than the obligation the ordinary seigneur was under to pour out drink for his superior, and his superior did not consider himself degraded for having to hold the shirt of his royal master when dressing. Counts and Barons stood protracted law suits to enforce their rights to *do* homage to those above them, who struggled as hard to get rid of an homage too expensive for them to keep up. When the Count of Cahors, who was also a Bishop, approached his chief city, the Baron of Cessac was wont to precede him to a certain spot, indicated in old titles, where he was bound to meet him. Once arrived there, he would dismount, and having saluted the prelate with his hat off, his right leg bare and wearing a slipper, he would take the Bishop's mule by the bridle and thus lead it towards the cathedral, from thence to the episcopal palace, where he would wait on the Bishop during dinner time; this performed he would retire, taking with him the Bishop's mule and *silver plate*. This ceremony took place as late as 1604, for the Bishop Etienne de Poppian; it resulted in a law suit, which was submitted to the Parlement of Toulouse. The complaint preferred by the Baron de Cessac was that the silver plate used on this occasion was not suitable to the *status* of the parties concerned, nor in accordance with the terms