

wise fearful of trusting their legal fortunes to one who flirts with politics—an enterprise which kills more good lawyers than anything else we wot of. We have never seen the case for literary diversion as against political dalliance on the part of lawyers better put than in the following extract: "One can choose his opportunities to study and write when other engagements do not press. But he who is influential in political life has no moment to call his own. He must make and keep regular appointments, no matter how much his business is interfered with; and besides this, he commonly spends many valuable hours in private consultations, in countermining and petty diplomacy. The lawyer who takes literature instead of politics as his "led horse," has much more command of his time, and unquestionably much less exhaustive drain upon his vital energy."

Bolingbroke in his day found cause to chide the "mere lawyer," and counselled those who would devote themselves to the province of jurisprudence to approach it by the "vantage-grounds" of metaphysical and historical knowledge. When we cast our eye over the illustrious roll of savants and authors who have adorned the English Bench and Bar from Bacon to Mr. Haldane we are ashamed of the provincialism that hedges about the ambitions of the profession in our own country, and are constrained to urge a prompt widening of our horizon in this respect. "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy."

SURVIVAL OF THE UNFIT.

The same subject has cropped up for discussion, at the same time, and without any apparent connection, both in England in the *Law Times* and in the United States in the *Law Notes*. One article is styled "The Problem of the Degenerates" and the other, "Penal Legislation and Crime." The saying that "great minds jump together" is further applicable as there is a similarity of treatment by both writers.

The problem for solution is the anthithesis of the proposition as to "the survival of the fittest". The bold proposal suggested in the *Law Times* by Dr. Rentoul, an eminent English Physician, would be to cut the gordian knot (possibly more senses than one),