

Again: Vast sums are embezzled by public officers. No Common Law can be remembered that will punish them, or cause them to disgorge the plunder—but let a shop-boy or beggar take a dollar from a till, not his own, and Mr. Recorder Morris's unwritten rules, which lawyers can so well remember, speedily send him to the penitentiary or House of Refuge.

There may be much that is valuable in our *borrowed* Chancery system—Lawyers differ about what it is—and beyond their circle who is there that understands its precepts? If law is equity why have we separate sets of judges; and if it is not, why not make it so?

Why is the procedure, or forms and proceedings in our courts, so mysterious, even to the learned, that cases like that of Ahern the Mayor's clerk, are often decided on matters of form and not on their true merits? The people choose their justices, but not one in a hundred of them, when so chosen, can possibly comprehend the complicated legal system which is the rule of their proceedings. Politically we have declared that all men are on a common footing in the eye of the law, yet property and its benefits, instead of becoming more equally diffused, are relatively more and more concentrated in a few hands, while the condition of the poor laborer has changed for the worse. *This is the working of a litigious constitution.*

The office of a judge of the higher courts is one of great power and dignity in this State. The station of Senator, with a voice in the court of last resort, enables its possessor to exercise a vast influence for good or evil. Yet I need go no farther than the *letters brought to light in this volume*, for evidence that substantial justice is out of the question, in many cases, under the present system, as administered. Wrangham was severely punished for meddling with private matters when he undertook to expose the bribery of Lord Verulam—but he was right—Bacon had to yield—and I trust that I shall be found fully able to meet all attempts at oppression to which the developments in the ensuing chapters may subject me. When, in Dec. 1839, the Democratic Review, backed as it was by the Globe and Argus, declared that "the boasted 'independence of the judiciary' is soon found to be mere independence of common sense and common justice," I doubted. It would seem, from various references in these pages, that the *private* opinion and procedure of the *leaders* in this State, did not differ from the public admissions of Mr. J. L. O'Sullivan.

A nation must not be nice about details when its existence or its liberties are threatened, whether from within or without. The public safety is the supreme law. Where is the man who can turn from a perusal of the facts I have submitted without being convinced that there is a mercenary faction in our midst, bound together by powerful ties, strong and united, sordid and selfish in every thing—acting in concert and for a common purpose, the destruction of that manly independence of thought and action which is the glory of our age and country? Listen to its leaders, as each for himself speaks in these pages. Where is one of them found to breathe a warm aspiration of generous sympathy for the sufferings and afflictions which chequers life to the whole family of man?

Mr. John Van Buren has been named in some of our most wide spread public journals as a probable candidate at no very distant day for the Presidency. Look at him as he really is—in the mirror himself has polished. His father is making no common exertions to attain a second time to the chair of Jackson. Observe well the pupile of his *school*, and say if he deserves it? Mr. Butler has an office of much influence in the administration of justice. Hear him, that ye may determine whether it is in safe hands! Mr. Hoyt's political annals are less important on his own account, than as showing the means whereby his artful employers got and kept for years the reins of state in this Union.

By the Constitution of 1821, the most important and influential offices in this State are withheld from the nomination and appointment of the millions. Draw aside the curtain, as I have done, and behold how that patronage has been exercised by our delegated agents. I trust that the Convention will aid the constituencies in getting rid of a Regency at Albany, and all its branches in the several counties. It is time the Empire State were rid of the Coddington tribe, who, Dugald Balgatty like, are ready to break up any government the hour it is formed, that hesitates to retain a legion of bribed and pensioned partisans.

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Mr. Cambre readily inferred dressed to his May 19th, 183

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