

the *peine forte et dure*, of which Mr. Ashton gives us a hideous picture, was a widely different thing from judicial torture ; its object was solely to compel the man to plead to the indictment, without which, it was supposed, his trial could not rightfully proceed ; and it ended the moment his obstinacy was overcome. There does not seem to have been on the part of the English courts the eagerness to convict which French courts have always shown. The death penalty was lavished with the cruel prodigality of an aristocratic legislature reckless of the blood of the people. Humane quibbles often tempered the cruelty of the code ; yet there were wholesale hangings, and there were frightful butcheries—the cart, not the drop, being used, and the friends of the victims pulling their legs and striking their breasts to shorten their agonies. The state of the prisons, also, was hideous, extortion on the part of the keepers conspiring with neglect. Lifelong imprisonment for debt was, perhaps, of all these barbarous pedantries, the most barbarous. The aspect of the courts must have been much what it is in England now. Wigs were worn by the judges and barristers, though in those days only as a part of the ordinary dress of a gentleman, and *green* bags, it seems, instead of blue, were carried. Lawyers were accused of roguery and of setting people by the ears for their own profit, but the accusation is not peculiar to the Augustan Age.

Medicine was mere empiricism. In the pharmacopœia given by Mr. Ashton were "Live Hog Lice," "Man's Skull," "Leaves of Gold," "Stone of a Carp's Head," "Frogs' Livers," "White dung of a Peacock dried," with many other remedies equally sovereign. It earned its fee by purging and bleeding without stint. Its chief professors, whose skill probably, like that of our spiritualists,

was moral, made large incomes—incomes equal to at least \$60,000 or \$70,000 in our day—rode in coaches with six horses, and behaved themselves like pashas. Dr. Radcliffe, the most renowned of them, was sitting over his wine when he received a message from the Princess Anne, who had become somewhat hypochondriac after the death of her sister, desiring him to come at once to see her. He refused to go, and sent back a message that it was all fancy, and that her Royal Highness was as well as any one else. So Mr. Ashton decorously puts it ; but the real message, according to tradition, was too coarse to be repeated to ears polite. This cost Radcliffe his appointment at court. When the Queen was dying, he was sent for ; but the implacable old Turk answered that "he had taken physic, and could not come." There was an outcry against him at the time ; in these days he would be torn to pieces. He was always saying the rudest things, and sometimes he met his match. He never would pay a bill without demurring, and he told a pavior who had been mending the pavement in front of his house, and applied for the money, that he had done his work badly and covered it with earth to hide it. "Doctor," replied the pavior, "mine is not the only bad work that the earth hides." Queen Anne, as we know from a passage in Boswell's "Johnson," touched for the King's Evil : strange to say, it appears that she did it in response to a Jacobite challenge to prove her legitimate royalty, and that the result was satisfactory to the public mind ; so that the conditions proposed by Renan would seem to have been fulfilled by the performance of a miracle under critical inspection. On the part of Johnson or his parents there must have been a want of faith. With the treatment of children the medical faculty