

ATTORNEYS AND SOLICITORS.—What is the real history of the change which has so recently taken place, in regard to these two titles and designations? We have now, in reality, *no country attorneys*, they are all *solicitors*; and, in calling themselves so, they seem to forget their origin. The following is a pretty true account of the office and profession:—"In the time of our Saxon ancestors, the freemen in every shire met twice a year, under the presidency of the *shirreeve*, or sheriff, and this meeting was called the *sheriff's torn*. By degrees, the freemen declined giving their personal attendance, and a freeman who *did* attend, carried with him the *proxies* of such of his friends as could not appear. He who actually went to the sheriff's *torn*, was said, according to the old Saxon, to go *at the torn*, and hence came the word *attorney*, which signified one that went to the *torn* for others, carrying with him a power to act or vote for those who employed him." I do not conceive that the *attorney* has any right to call himself a solicitor, but where he has business in a court of equity.—*Heraldic Anomalies*.

HALIFAX MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

June 6. Mr. G. R. Young read a paper on Climate; in which was much interesting matter on the difference of Climate in various countries and at various altitudes, and on the causes of this difference. During the conversation a very interesting observation was made: the Lecturer said, that Mr. Titus Smith obtained a fore-knowledge of the extraordinary severity of the last winter, from observing in the previous fall, that wild animals and birds, had been provided with better coats of fur and feathers than usual. This extra-clothing, is said to be a regular indication of an approaching severe season.

13. John Young Esqr. (Agricola) delivered a Lecture on Agriculture. The eloquence and information expected from Mr. Young were amply sustained; he treated his subject in rather a novel manner, eminently appropriate to the lecture room of a Mechanics' Institute. He shewed the precedence which Agriculture was naturally entitled to, and its importance as a forerunner and handmaid to all other arts. The importance of science and system to a practical agriculturist, was strongly dwelt on; and a vivid picture was drawn of the progress of society, from a settlement in the forest to a state of high civilization and refinement.

During the conversation which followed the lecture, it was enquired whether the lecturer thought that the climate of Nova-Scotia would ever so improve as to enable it to become a great agricultural country. Mr. Young answered, that he had no doubt a great progressive improvement would be experienced; but that *the climate of Nova-Scotia now, was such as enabled it to be highly agricultural*. That the common opinion of our climate was a fallacy, that Nova-Scotia in soil and temperature was superior to Scotland, where agriculture has been so successfully pursued; and that failures in Nova-Scotia, and consequent complaints, occurred, by persons applying to agriculture, not because they understood the art or were in any way fitted for it, *but as a dernier resort when all other things failed*. And—said Mr. Young—in what trade or profession could men hope to succeed, if only similarly tried. The Lecturer declared that he looked forward as confident as ever, that Nova-Scotia would yet be all that its best friends wished as regards fertility and prosperity.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Young.—[President's closing Address next number.]