

or written ;—slander ;—abusive language ;—promulgation of opinions of a demoralizing or impious tendency.

### COURTS OF LAW.

16. Q. What is the legal profession ?

A. Legal, signifies belonging to the Law. The Legislature provides statutes, rules, or laws, by which society is governed. Part of the people prosecute the study of those laws, as a means of business. They profess to explain the laws, to give advice founded on them, and to vindicate the legal rights of others, for payment : those persons compose the legal profession.

17. Q. What are the tendencies of the profession ?

A. Perhaps, generally, towards a habit of governing the conduct according to prescribed rule ;—and, also, towards an aptitude for adopting a right or wrong basis of argument, according to engagement. Some of the best friends and worst enemies of liberty, have been found in the profession.

18. Q. What are Courts of Law ?

A. Tribunals for authoritative legal decisions. The government selects members of the legal profession, to preside at legal enquiries. These officers are called Judges. They are made independent, and irremovable, except for gross violations of duty. The Legislature fixes certain periods for legal enquiries. At the appointed time, and in the appointed place, the Judge appears ; he hears cases, pronounces decision, and the decision is established accordingly, by appointed officers. The institutions for those formalities for trials, are called Courts of Law. Court, generally, signifies the presence of some dignitary or officer, with the forms and authority incidental to the rank or office.

19. Q. Is the Institution of much consequence ?

A. Yes,—the liberty, property and life, of citizens, sometimes depend on legal proceedings.

20. Q. Does the office of Judge require much integrity ?

A. Yes. The verdict of a Jury is generally requisite in legal trials, —but the Judge's opinion and conduct have often much weight in various ways, during such investigations. His manner of conducting trials may vary according to temper and uprightness. His decisions include scope for the exercise of individual judgement. If the Judge be able and pure, suitors for justice have faith in his Court,—men look up to him as to an impartial, authoritative arbitrator, who will redress grievance and shield from wrong. Thus good order, peace and propriety, are materially served. If a Judge be supposed inefficient or partial, dissatisfaction, and various evils result.

21. Q. State the more prominent qualifications of a Judge.

A. He is an expounder and a decider. He should, therefore, understand the varied principles, the maxims, rules and cases, of the profession, of which he is a chief ;—and he should judge righteously, as if each case were the only concern of his life, and that his character, in the eyes of Heaven and earth, depended on his conduct in each.

22. Q. Is the office of Judge connected with politics,—with matters of general government ?