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## *THE JUBILEE, 1837-1897.*

We join the many millioned voice that encircles the earth with the glad acclaim "GOD SAVE THE QUEEN."

Among the many achievements of the illustrious reign now drawing to a close none are more remarkable, and none have been attended with more benefit to the British people, than those reforms in legal and judicial procedure which have been steadily going on for many years past. Though based upon the most enduring foundations of justice and equity, the methods of conducting suits had by degrees become needlessly complex, and, in consequence, oppressively costly. The complete severance between courts of law and equity; the growth, in a ruder age, of the conflict between the civil and ecclesiastical elements, each struggling in its own way, and according to its own lights, to overcome the barbarism of the feudal system, was one of the chief causes of the complicated systems of pleading which exercised the ingenuity and swelled the incomes of the legal profession, while it wearied the patience and depleted the pockets of the public.

The present simplicity of pleadings, the brevity of proceedings, and summary processes of the courts, the fusion of the hitherto distinct branches of law and equity, the codification of the criminal law, and the consolidation of the statute law, are the result of patient and cautious, while steadily progressive effort, as creditable to the good sense as to the unselfishness of those members of the profession who have taken the lead in the path of law reform. In the manner characteristic of our race, we have gone on, step by step, cautiously feeling our way, looking to reform, and not to revolution, as the true method of accomplishing the end in view.