

been drawn up by Bryan Edwards. The enterprising Belzoni could not write English; and the amusing travels of M. Le Vaillant among the Hottentots, full of fiction and romance, are the production of a French Abbé, who had probably never passed the barriers of Paris.—*Quarterly Review*.

ORIGIN OF THE TERMS ATTORNEY AND SOLICITOR.

"In the time of our Saxon ancestors," says a work entitled *Heraldic Anomalies*, "the freemen in every shire met twice a year, under the presidency of the shire-reeve 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 Torn for others, carrying with him a power to act or vote for those who employed him. I do not conceive, continues the writer, that the attorney has any right to call himself a solicitor, but where he has business in a court of equity. If he chose to act more upon the principles of equity than of law, let him be a solicitor by all means, but not otherwise; for law and equity are very different things; neither of them very good, as overwhelmed with forms and technicalities; but, upon the whole, equity is surely the best, if it were but for the name of the thing."

THE EARWIG—The name of this insect in almost all European languages, has given it a character which causes a feeling of alarm even at the sight of it. Whether or not they ever did enter the human ear is doubtful,—that they might endeavour to do so, under the influence of fear, is more than probable; and this, perhaps, has been the origin of their name, and the universal prejudice against them. As it is said that anatomists deny the possibility of their deep and dangerous entrance into the ear, it is a pity that this is not generally known, as it might defend the constitutionally timid from unnecessary alarm, and give a more favourable idea of a part of animal creation, which forms a necessary link to the chain of being.—*Brand's Journal*.

CHEAP CURSES—The Puritans were more severe in the punishment of swearing than cursing; for when an Irishman was fined twelvepence for an oath, he asked what he should pay for a curse? They said sixpence. He threw down sixpence, and cursed the whole committee.

EXECUTIONS IN SPAIN—The executioner places the head of the culprit between his two thighs, and on the signal being given, they both swing off together, the former sitting *à cali fourchon*, on the shoulders of the latter; he then twists the body round and round with the utmost velocity, at the same time kicking violently with his heels on the breast and lungs of the criminal, and raising himself up and down (as one does in a hard trot), to increase the weight of the hanging man; all this the Spa-

niards assure us is to put the unhappy wretch the sooner out of his misery. We leave our feeling readers to judge of the real effect which must thus be produced on the unhappy sufferer. The face is never covered, and the bodies are left hanging the whole day, with all the horrible distortion produced on the countenance by so frightful a death. The moment the hangman throws himself off with the criminal, all the spectators take off their hats and begin saying *Ave Marias* for the soul of the dying man, which continue all the while that the executioner is twisting and twirling and swinging and jumping. The Spaniards have the oddest way of praying it is possible to conceive; they begin in a high, loud tone, *Santa Maria, Madre de Dios*, and gradually descend to a low buzz, scarcely audible; this, added to the lively motions of the hangman, change entirely the effect of so awful a scene; for when observed from a short distance, it appears literally as if two men were waltzing together, while the spectators are humming a slow march. A large black robe, with a broad white collar, is the costume of all condemned criminals in Spain.

The *British Whig* of December 17th contains an article headed "Men of our time:" the last name in the list being Queen Victoria!

MORE PLAIN THAN POLIPE—The *Kingston British Whig* says:—"The American women dress like ladies, and they eat like pigs."

"Mr. Smith," said a lady to one of her boarders, "will you do me the favour to help the butter." "Shan't do it," replied the imperturbable Mr. Smith. "Why not, Mr. Smith?" asked the fair proprietress of the establishment. "Why?" retorted Smith, "because it's strong enough to help itself!"

The following singular epitaph was copied from a tomb in the parish churchyard of Pewsey, in Dorsetshire:—"Here lies the body of Lady O'Looney, great niece of Burke, commonly called 'the Sublime'; she was bland, passionate, and deeply religious; also, she painted in water colours, and sent several pictures to the Exhibition; she was first cousin to Lady Jones, and of such is the kingdom of Heaven."

Wit is brushwood, judgment is timber. The first makes the brightest flame, but the other gives the most lasting heat.

"Wife," said a man looking for a boot jack, "I have places where I keep my things, and you ought to know it." "Yes," she said, "I ought to know where you keep your late hours."

By one only recompense can I be led
With this beautiful ringlet to part;
That should I restore you the lock of your head,
You will give me the key of your heart.

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