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"The injustice done to an individual, is sometimes of service to the public." JUNIUS to Lord Mansfield.

Although the solution of the query contained in the following letter would more properly belong to a lawyer, and at all events would be more congenial to the miscellaneous nature of the Scribbler, than the purely political pages of this work, I give it insertion here, with my reply, as an early notice of it has been requested, and room could not be found for it in this week's number of the other.

MR. EDITOR,

Many of your readers, as well as myself, would feel much obliged to you, if you will have the goodness to pass your opinion upon the following question. Suppose, sir, I take in payment two or three notes purporting to be bills of the Montreal bank, has, upon my taking them to the bank to ascertain their genuineness, Mr. Benjamin Holmes, or any other of the bank-clerks, a right to stamp on the bills the word "counterfeit?" If he has, I should think it very unfair, for by that means, the person from whom I received them, would not take back the bills he gave, and his plea would be, "why, sir, the bills I gave you were not stamped,—consequently, I can not exchange them;" and so I must of course submit to the loss. Your opinion on this subject, as speedily as possible, will confer a favour on

Your obedient FIDUS ACHATES.

I conceive, that, although there may be no abstract right derived from any *lex scripta*, by which the Montreal bank (now incorporated, and therefore a legal body, and entitled to exercise all legal acts which a bank may do,) can deface a counterfeit bill, it is part of the common law that they not only may, but ought to, do whatever may be necessary to prevent such spurious paper from being again circulated; if possible without causing the innocent parties who have been imposed upon by the designing, to suffer loss; although that is a minor consideration that must give way to the higher dictates of public good, and counteraction of fraud. It is upon the same principle that shopkeepers take to themselves the right of nailing to their counters the counterfeit coin that may be offered to them; I believe