

But then, whatever may be the portion of truth contained in the afore-said affirmation, the continued recitation of them in prose and verse, verbal and written, (for it is a fashion to have a fling, at a lawyer) lose their freshness, and the observations being often ill-timed; grow sickly and decay, vanishing into air. There are contingent evils in this world; perhaps these may be of them. But let us proceed to show that, by the increase of lawyers; it is self-evident that we may as well attempt to do without property as to do without those who protect it for us, or take it from us. Now Swift much feared, that if books and acts of parliament continued to increase, few would be learned, or any man be a lawyer. And we know by the time you get one statute tolerably fixed in your memory, you come to another by which it is repealed: who then can wonder at this increase of lawyers, which some call fatal?

In the rolls of Parliament 1445, is a petition from the Commons of two counties, showing that the number of attornies had lately increased from 6 or 8 to 24, whereby the peace of those counties had been greatly interrupted by suits. The Commons therefore petition, that it may be ordained, that there shall be no more than six common attornies for Norfolk, 6 for Suffolk, and two for the city of Norwich. The King granted the petition, provided it were thought reasonable by the judges. Then again we find a contemporary making the following observations:—"The spirit and essence of the English law cannot be surpassed in point of wisdom by the records of the whole world, ancient and modern; and yet their prolixity is a serious evil; and which George Alexander Stevens drolly satirises, by one counsellor at the bar, referring to the 984th page of the 120th folio volume of the abridgement of the statutes. First our legislature passes an act; then comes an act to amend this act; then a rider, then a supplement, then an appendix, and so on; instead of each act being consolidated under their own authority, or that of a delegated committee. The laws of China (Mr. Barrow tells us) are but 16 small volumes; and probably they have lasted for thousands of years, for a population which is equal to that of one-third of the universe. The Code Napoleon, we believe, is in a single volume octavo; but the ramifications of our statutes tend to confuse, not to define, and finally to fill all England with hosts of lawyers, and consequently, by their exertions in the way of trade, with hosts of plaintiffs and defendants. Some have thought that laws may be whimsically compared to nut-crackers, whilst they crush to atoms small objects, with great ones they bend and break."

*The Good Old Times.*—It is to be hoped the professional gentlemen inhabiting that FOWL place—*Dorking*, will not bring an action against us for exposing its ancient character. We learn, that in the reign of Henry VI. "Courts used to be held there every three weeks, and in them actions were brought. There are instances of suits *lasting for six months*; and perhaps, at last, the damages were four-pence, and the costs twelve pence!" The old story! "Moreover, it was presented at the court leet, anno 24, (and often repeated) that butchers, inn-keepers, tailors, hucksters, millers, merchants, drapers, shoe makers, smiths, turners, labourers, bakers, carpenters, and tanners