

(In soothe he vowed to love till death
Not Kate but rare Elizabeth !)

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She dried her eyes, our Katy did,
When thus her lawyer Katy chid :
"Why weep? A thousand pounds, I trow,
Is worth a thousand Peers or so !
"So dam your tears !" (that sounds profane
But, written out, the meaning's plain !)
Then, e'er his honey-moon has paled,
Wight Newsham to Westminster's haled !
But MANSFIELD eyes the deed askance ;
"This cannot hold by any chance !"
"'Tis not a pledge to marry Kate,
And yet, to judge Peers celibate,
"Propter this deed, would over-draw
The policy of English law.
"The contract's dead, as Cæsar's dead,
Because it curbs the right to wed !"
Whereat the Judges did report
That Katy Lowe was out of Court.
—And thus the little drama went
To make a legal precedent.

CHARLES MORSE.

It is not often that any amusement of a jocular character can be extracted from a consideration of the rule in *Shelley's Case*. It is therefore refreshing to read the judgment of Lord MacNaghten in *Van Grutten v. Foxwell*, 77 L.T. 170, in which that learned Lord has essayed, with considerable success, to impart a certain air of breezy comicality to the battle which he recounts of the legal Titans of the past, over that celebrated rule.