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Stultum est amittere radices quas habemus, ut acquiramus novas.
THEOPHRASTUS apud PLIN.

It is folly to lop off old roots in order to acquire new ones.

—They have the power; and laws, you know, are intended to guard against what men *may* do, not to trust to what they *will* do.

JUNIUS, to Sir William Blackstone.

The practice of the junto of Unionists to transmit to all the papers in their interest, at one and the same time, copies of the same essay for publication, such as we formerly had as *Old Loyalists, Unionists, Britannia, &c.* and latterly *Plain Men, &c.* has brought to my recollection a ludicrous story of an Egyptian magician and his companion. The magician persuaded his friend to leave all his servants at Memphis, telling him they should not be at a loss for attendants. When they came to any inn, Pancrates, the magician, took a log of wood, and setting it upright, repeated a magical verse, upon which it walked about and appeared like a slave. This slave, upon being ordered, went about, prepared the supper, laid the cloth, and waited at table, and when there was no further occasion for his services, was turned into a wooden log again, by some other magical verse. Pancrates refused to impart the secret to his friend, but the latter having hid himself one day in a dark corner, he caught the first verse which consisted of three syllables; and on the next day, in the absence of the magician, he took up a log, and repeating the mystic syllables, ordered it to fetch some water: when it had brought a full jar, he cried, "stop, draw no more water, but become a log again." It was in vain, however, he reiterated his command "as you were." The perverse log continued his employment till the house was full of water.—Not able to endure this obstinacy, he, in a passion, took up an axe, and with two or three blows, split the walking log into five or six pieces. But he was now worse off than ever, for the polydemon phantom turned into as many water-carriers as there were pieces, who ran about drawing five times as much water as before. Nor was it till Pancrates returned, and changed