

point the attention of the Legislature, has this peculiarity ; that although in itself a grievance of the most pressing kind, it is yet brought to the notice of the people at large only by slow degrees. Its weight indeed is felt every now and then, with overpowering force ; but it falls on isolated individuals, scattered through the community, and consequently fails to produce simultaneous and general opposition ; and it is that alone, which seems to arouse the attention of those who govern. The origin too, of the ill consequences pointed at, is for the most part concealed from the view of men in general ; it is felt, and produces its natural result, discontent ; but the public generally, want that familiar acquaintance with the subject, and that opportunity and leisure, for observation and reflection upon it, which is requisite to enable them to trace it to its source. Professional men, on the other hand, have these abuses and their causes, daily, and painfully forced upon their attention, and it has therefore seemed to me a peculiar and sacred duty, which *we* owe to our fellow-countrymen, to be ever forward in advocating such reform as may be found expedient, to preserve in its purity and efficiency, that system of judicature, by which property, liberty, life, is designed to be protected.

But, apart from the consideration of any