

NE SUTOR ULTRA CREPIDAM.

Often in courts of justice are Judges and Lawyers puzzled in attempts to decipher the meaning of some "document" composed of solemn nonsense.

Once we saw a memorandum of agreement prepared by an amateur conveyancer, in which the vendor agreed to sell a parcel of land to the vendee "without impeachment of waste," upon payment of a specified sum of money and interest.

On another occasion, we saw a deed of a lot of land from a man to a widow, to hold to her heirs and assigns for ever, "by the courtesy of England."

Instances such as these are of daily occurrence in Upper Canada. Now what is the source of them? It is that a most important branch of professional practice is open to all the world, including the man who sells you your groceries, the man who makes your boots, the man who sells you quack medicines to kill or cure your horse or dog and afterwards is ready to buy the hide of your horse or dog at the best price.

These remarks have been suggested by an advertisement cut from a local paper and sent us, of which advertisement the following is a copy:—

A — B —

COMMISSIONER, Q. B., CONVEYANCER, &c. Also, Dealer in Groceries & Provisions, Boots & Shoes, Crockery & Dry Goods, Room Paper & School Books, Patent Medicines, Blank Deeds and Memorials, &c., Cheaper than ever. Cash paid for Hides, &c.

We respect an honest man of whatever calling. We despise no man because of his calling. Each is to be respected in his station. The grocer, the shoemaker, and the tanner, is each a useful member of society; but in order to be as useful as possible without danger to life or property, each should keep to his calling until fitted for a different one.

The villager, however parsimonious, would be more likely in case of sickness to entrust his malady to a known medical man than to a horse doctor or the village shoemaker. Why then should he, when about to acquire his "little all," entrust the transfer to a man whose only fitness is his effrontery or ability to write better orthography than his neighbours, when a skilled conveyancer may be had in the same locality?

The system is one of folly, often pregnant of penny wise and pound foolish consequences. It may be that the village shopkeeper, who knows more of a pound of Souchong tea than an estate in fee simple, will draw a deed for less money than the lawyer, who has spent years in acquiring a knowledge of estates, their nature, extent and mode of transfer. Time spent by a lawyer in acquiring a knowledge of his profession is capital. Money expended in the

purchase of books is capital. When therefore he (the lawyer) is needed to make use of his skill so acquired, he must of necessity seek a greater recompense for his services than the man who did not spend a day in the study of the law, or buy a book with a view to its practice.

Many men, influenced by the paltry consideration of thus saving a dollar, lose thousands. We have known men incur the costs of heavy chancery suits in order to cure the blunders of ignorance or incapacity—too dear at any price. We have known other men lose properties, made valuable by years of toil, because of entrusting to incompetent men the responsible duty of transferring estates. Such men learnt wisdom by experience, but at such a price as to reduce them perhaps from a state of comparative affluence to absolute want. Others should be warned by their example.

THE LAW SOCIETY OF UPPER CANADA.

The institution of Scholarships has proved a decided success. The examinations during last term were of a very high character. Much interest was felt in them, and the successful candidates were warmly congratulated by their fellow students. The following is the result:—

FIRST YEAR.

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-------------------|
| John McKindsey | 291 | |
| L. C. Moore | 282 | |
| Codrington Reid | 278 | |
| George Kilpatrick | 278 | } <i>æquales.</i> |
| Samuel Hoskins | 258 | |

SECOND YEAR.

| | | |
|------------------------|-----|-------------------|
| George Holmstead | 267 | |
| Richard Walkem | 256 | |
| Frederick Fenton | 256 | } <i>æquales.</i> |

THIRD YEAR.

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Donald McLennan | 298 |
| George Rae | 271 |
| J. D. Edgar | 240 |

The maximum number of marks that could be obtained by any candidate, either for the 1st, 2nd or 3rd year, was 320. The names of candidates whose marks were under 240 are not made known.

FOURTH YEAR.

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Thomas Ferguson | 360 |
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The maximum number of marks that could be obtained by any candidate for this year was 480. The names of candidates whose marks are under 360 are not made known.

Much of the success of the Law Society is due to the well known energy of its Treasurer. The reforms which have been originated since his election to office, and are now being carried out under his guidance, are in every respect calculated to elevate our profession, by making its members more learned than they would be without the many advantages which the Society now affords.