

to see these luminaries, mightest have remained unenlightened thyself notwithstanding, like those very obstinate gentlemen of our own times, Lords Jeffrey and Moncreiff; but in taking measure of the vast intellectual stature of our Hopes and Cuninghames, thou wouldest have at least found it necessary to introduce into thy "Sketches" one Adam more, and he a giant. And thou, O Monboddo! hadst thou but seen the sort of persons who follow in their train, thou wouldest surely have rejoiced, whatever else thou mightest have done, in the return of the men with tails. But ah! unhappy lawyers, ye lived an age too soon, and so must content yourselves now with just the pity of the Lord Ordinary."

There is assuredly a time coming when our ecclesiastical question, viewed in the clear light of history, shall be judged one of the best possible for illustrating the character of the Court in both its judicial and its legislative aspects. It will exhibit the Janus-like head of this institution, with its one countenance bent tranquilly upon the past century, and its other countenance breathing war and horror on the present. It will be seen that in the last century, the Court, with regard to the Church, presented only its judicial aspect: we have shown why. It will be found that it is the legislative aspect which it presents with respect to the Church now. And there will doubtless be some interest in marking the exact point at which the one character has been taken up and the other character laid down, with all the various causes which have led to the change. But the prejudices and prepossessions of men interfere, and prevent the question from being one of the best possible illustrations of this in the present time. We have a case before us which at least our antagonists will recognise as happier in its application. It is a case in which the decision arrived at by the Court traverses not quite so palpably the laws of the country, as the fixed laws of nature. We submitted to our readers, rather