

**THE PLEADER'S
GUIDE, A
DIDACTIC POEM**

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The Pleader's guide, a didactic poem by John Anstey

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JOHN ANSTEY

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THE
PLEADER'S GUIDE,
A DIDACTIC POEM.

Printed by W. Bulmer and Co.
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TO THE READER.

THE following production of the late ingenious MR. SURREBUTTER, Special Pleader and Barrister at Law, is submitted to your perusal by his Executor, in the precise form in which it was found among the Author's Papers at his decease. The Poem is divided into two Parts, and the whole subdivided into eighteen Lectures, being the substance of a Course of Instruction in the Practice of the Courts and the art of Special Pleading, originally intended by the Author for the use of his pupil and kinsman, Mr. JOB SURREBUTTER, to whom it is particularly addressed. The

Author, in the outset of his plan, professes to demonstrate to his pupil the decided superiority of the Common Law over the Civil, with respect to some *peculiar* advantages, heretofore perhaps not fully considered; and from thence proceeds to instruct him in the History of a Suit at Common Law, commencing with the *Original Writ*, and conducting him regularly through the whole of the subsequent Process in all its splendid varieties and modifications; and finishing the first Course of his Lectures with the Parties' final appearance in Court, upon the return of the *Process to Outlawry*.

The subsequent Lectures, which compose the Second Part, resume the subject at the point where it rested,

preserving the *Epic* and *Didactic* character of the work through the remaining stages of the PLEADINGS and the TRIAL.

The Editor has only further to remark, that he has subjoined to the text an explanation of the technical terms and legal references as they occur in the course of the Poem; and has also, for the satisfaction of the *candid* Reader, been at very considerable pains to discover, if possible, whom the Author really intended under the different characters he has interwoven with the History of the *Process* and the *Trial*; in this, however, the Editor acknowledges with concern that he has completely failed; partly owing to a defect in the Author's original MSS, and the

total absence of dates, and partly to the *changing of the Venue* in the Trial, and the circumstance of the Cause not having been tried at the Assizes for the county wherein the trespass is supposed to have been committed—it is, perhaps, a fault in the original design of this Poem, that it should have been *unfortunately* so constructed, that the characters attempted to be delineated in it, will *not* admit of any particular application; but, as it is a *posthumous* production, due allowances, it is to be hoped, will be made for this imperfection.

J. A.

SYLLABUS
OF
MR. SURREBUTTER'S
PROFESSIONAL LECTURES.

LECTURE I.

MR. S. proposes the Plan of his Lectures—
His Address to the Gentlemen of the Law, particularly to his kinsman Mr. JOB S-R-R-B-T-T-R
—The Plan of Mr. JOB'S Education for the study of the Law commended—The superior advantages of his situation as a Special Pleader's Pupil.