

modern valor are founded. At all the banquets of the great, feats of personal valor were exhibited; tilts and tournaments were the common spirits of the age; and those combats were often countenanced by the presence of the prince and his whole court. These tournaments continued long in high estimation; but the death of Henry II., who was killed in one of them, gave a death-blow to their progress; and the renown of chivalry, it is said, fell with that monarch, to rise no more, except in the tales of romance. The duel was not stopped at the same time; for it had risen to such a height as to call for the interference of public authority; and about this period, the challenge of Francis I. to the Emperor Charles V. countenanced the practice. From that time, the single combat, on private and personal injuries, increased with rapidity; and an unguarded word, a haughty look and a disdainful carriage were often productive of the most fatal consequences. From this period is dated the origin of the modern duel. The subjects of Francis now indulged their propensity for the single combat, under the countenance and injunction of their monarch.—The foolish custom raged, notwithstanding the efforts of popes, bishops, general councils, princes and kings to abolish it, from this time and the reign of Philip the Fair, at the close of the 13th century, to the age of Henry IV., who, in his edict at Blois, in 1602, mentions that the disorders arising from the fighting of duels were so great, and so much Christian blood was spilt by them, that he could not judge himself worthy of being king, if he did not put a stop to it. During the first 18 years of his reign, 4,000 gentlemen (so called) perished by the duel in France. In the beginning of the reign of Louis XIII., Lord Herbert remarks—“There is scarcely any Frenchman deemed worth looking on, who has not slain his man in a duel.”

Louis XIV., in 1679, opposed this bloody practice, and issued many edicts; which are said to have produced greater restraint of duelling than all the attempts of his predecessors. In 1712, the king of Poland published a severe edict against duelling; and at this day, it is believed that the petty island of Malta, famous for its knights and its jackasses, is the only place in the world where duelling is legal.

Although duelling was never carried on to the same extent in England as in gay, giddy and trifling France, where government is changed with as little ceremony as men of fashion change their habiliments, yet in both countries it originated from the same source, and owed its progress to the same causes. The *judicial* combat prevailed about the time of Edward the 3d, and was a part of the law of the land as lately as 1571, in the reign of Elizabeth, when it was recognized by the law-courts. During the civil wars (the most interesting era of English history in the opinion of your committee,) the minds of men—such men as Milton, Pym and Hampden—were little disposed to waste their time, employed as it was in settling liberty on a true constitutional basis, in adjusting the fantastical ceremonies of that thing yclept etiquette. The parliament of Cromwell, (who