

said, brought the fortunate author a return of no less than £14,000—probably the largest remuneration the author of a single treatise has ever been able to secure. Blackstone's practice at the Bar increasing, he resigned his Vinerian Professorship in 1762, being succeeded by Robert Chambers, afterwards Chief Justice of Bengal, but best remembered as an intimate friend of Dr. Johnson. In 1777 Chambers was succeeded by Richard Woodeson, who wrote several legal works of no great note, and in 1793 he in turn gave place to James Blackstone, a son of the first professor. A new distinction was conferred upon the post when, in 1882, Mr. A. V. Dicey was elected to fill it; for his lectures have given us his classic work on the English Constitution, and his no less interesting and valuable Law and Opinion in England.

"In 1759 on the strength of his rising fame, Blackstone had taken chambers again in the Temple, and his own reports (King's Bench), covering the whole period from his call to his death (1746-1779), shew that his services were increasingly in demand. His name constantly appears in the arguments before Lord Mansfield. In 1760 he was invited by Chief Justice Willes to take the coif. In 1763 he became Solicitor-General to the Queen and a Bencher of his Inn—the Middle Temple. But it was not until 1765 that the first volume of his famous Commentaries, based on his lectures, made its appearance.

"The Commentaries were written on the first floor (south) of 2 Brick Court, Temple, but not without interruption from a lively neighbour. Oliver Goldsmith, recently enriched to the amount of £500 by the profits of the Good-Natured Man, had invested the money in the purchase of chambers on the second floor of the Brick Court, exactly over Blackstone's head, and these chambers were the scene of much hilarious festivity. Sometimes it was 'a cheerful little hop,' at other times a supper party with blindman's buff, forfeits and games of cards, diversified with Irish songs, or a minuet danced by Goldsmith with an Irish lady, in which the poet testified the exuberance of his spirits by wearing his wig back to front, or tossing it gaily up to the ceiling.