

of his country, and when a measure is proposed which may be beneficial, or which may not, and when a vote one way would do himself no good, and a vote the other way would, he gives himself the benefit of the doubt, and votes accordingly. When a physician has attended a patient some weeks, and there seems to be no farther occasion for his attendance and services, and, no need of any more things ; yet, as it is possible, notwithstanding all favourable appearances, that there may be a relapse, he gives himself the benefit of the doubt, visits the patient once more, and administers another dose. When a shop-keeper has an article of doubtful quality, and a customer of no doubtful sagacity, he forthwith gives himself the benefit of the doubt, sells the doubtful article, and puts it beyond all doubt, that some folks are more easily imposed upon than others. When a stage-coachman, picks up a roadside passenger, and doubts whether it be quite honest to appropriate the proceeds to himself, he gives himself the benefit of the doubt, and forthwith pockets the fare. When a party of school-boys have arranged an excursion to commit depredations on a neighbour's orchard, and one of them feels a little hesitation and a few conscientious qualms as to the matter, and has some doubt as to whether he may not do better by abstaining from plunder ; but being rather partial to apples, and knowing that if he does not steal them, he will not have any, and doubting whether, after all, there be any such mighty great crime in stealing a few apples, he gives him the benefit of the doubt, and sticks to his party. When a cab-driver or a water-man has taken two or three fares successively in his cab or boat, and finds, after the departure of the last customer, a purse or other article of value at the bottom of his cab or boat, and he knows not which of the three it belongs to, in such circumstances the readiest way of settling the matter is to give himself the benefit of the doubt, and put the purse into his own pocket. When a voter at an election can get a fee from one candidate, and not from the other, from thence is some doubt in his mind as to which is the best man to vote for,—as it is a difficult matter for common minds to determine on state af-