

the first had a special liking for legal discussions. He was a regular attendant at the Court of King's Bench, and used to dine afterwards at a law club, as was the universal custom at that time among lawyers. At dinner he took the most unceasing and lively interest in all the professional conversation of the table. The hour of the dinner was four, and the bill was called for at six, and after dinner all departed to chambers. The law clubs have long given way to the West End clubs—an innovation that Brougham regretted, because it deprived the young lawyer and the student of the benefit of hearing cases and points that arose in the Courts familiarly discussed by lawyers of experience. In 1781, Pitt, having become Member of Parliament for Appleby, joined one of the clubs near St. James's Street; but it was his habit, even when he dined at the West End of the town, to come back to Lincoln's Inn early enough to make sure of getting in before the wicket was shut at twelve o'clock. He did not go to chambers, but to Will's Coffee-house, which was situated within Lincoln's Inn, and which was, by order of the Society, closed at midnight. There Pitt sat down with a newspaper, a dry biscuit, and a bottle of very bad port wine, the greater part of which he finished cold, whatever he might have eaten or drunk at dinner.

Pitt, as might have been expected, joined the Western Circuit. His father's old connection with Bath, and the family property in Somersetshire, naturally influenced him in making his choice. Among those who were contemporary with him on circuit were William Grant, afterwards Master of the Rolls, John Freeman Mitford, afterwards Lord Redesdale and Lord Chancellor of Ireland, and William Adam, afterwards Lord Chief Commissioner of the Scottish Jury Court. It is interesting to mention that he filled the post of "Recorder," an office in which he was succeeded by another future statesman, Tierney. He described his first experience of circuit in a letter to his mother:—

DORCHESTER, August 4, 1780.

"You will be glad to have early information of my having arrived prosperously at this place, and taken upon me the character of a lawyer. I have indeed done so, yet no other-