

guarded by the "peaceful reign of organized justice," as Balfour happily phrased "The Reign of Law," it is necessary to guard these blessings, and of late years there have been certain tendencies which at one time threatened to destroy individual liberty, undoubtedly the fundamental basis of free institutions. Men of science tell us that no two human beings ever have been or ever will be exactly alike and it would therefore be the most fatal thing that could happen to the human race to enforce a dull and deadly uniformity.

Fortunately, the Common Law is a living thing and capable of growth, capable of being adapted to all the needs and circumstances of liberty-loving and justice-loving peoples. We are too apt to disregard the warning of Shakespeare that "the insolence of office" is one of the most grievous ills to which "flesh is heir," and to overlook his other statement based equally on his profound knowledge of human nature that, when vested with arbitrary powers, the typical official,

"Drest in a little brief authority
Most ignorant of what he's most assur'd. . .
.
Plays such fantastic tricks before high heaven
As make the angels weep."

Many thoughtful persons view with alarm the growing custom of vesting in irresponsible bodies, legislative as well as administrative powers and making their arbitrary decisions above the law—not subject to appeal, as the phrase is.

After a long fight it was established that even the King was not above the law, and our forefathers abolished one Star Chamber. This generation of English-speaking peoples is multiplying Star Chambers. When they become too oppressive and tyrannical, as most certainly they will, they can in turn be abolished. While the mischief done will be annoying, and to many distressing, I do not believe that in any case it will be fatal. The living principles of liberty and justice embodied in the Common Law have enabled our race to survive many dangers in the past and I, at any rate, have no doubt they still have