

established between the Protector and his Scottish subjects, the old Hall was restored to more legitimate uses. There, in the following year, General Monk and the leaders of the Commonwealth were feasted with lavish hospitality; and the courts of law resumed their sittings, with an impartial regard for justice scarcely known in Scotland before.

Then came the "glorious Restoration," under the auspices of the once republican general; and the royal commissioner, the Duke of York, was feasted in the old hall, with his fair princess and daughter, attended by the beauty and chivalry of Scotland, anxious to efface all memory of former doing in the same place. But, mortifying as was the scene of Scotland's sons held captive in her own capital by English jailers, darker times were heralded by this vice-regal banquet, when the Duke presided, along with Dalziel and Claverhouse, in the same place, to try by torture the passive heroism of the confessors of the Covenant; and the astute lawyer Sir George Mackenzie played the part of King's advocate with such zeal as won for him the popular title, which still survives all others, of "bluidy Mackenzie." It was in the lower hall, now so long dedicated to the calm seclusion of literary study, that the scenes were witnessed when the noble, the enthusiastic, and despairing were alike prostrate at the feet of tyrants, or subjected to cruel tortures by their merciless award. There Guthrie and Argyle received the barbarous sentence of their personal enemies without form of trial; and hundreds of less note courageously endured the fury of the persecutors, while *Mercy* and *Justice* tarried at the door.

A glimpse at the procedure of this Scottish Star Chamber, furnished by Fountainhall in his account of the trial of six men in October 1681, "on account of their religion and fanaticism," may suffice for a key to the justice administered there. Garnock, one of the prisoners, having railed at Dalziel in violent terms, "the General in a passion, struck him with the pomel of his shable on the face, till the blood sprang."¹ With such men for judges, and *thumbekins*, *boots*, and other instruments of torture as the means of eliciting the evidence they desired, imagination will find it hard to exceed the horrors of this infamous tribunal.

An interesting trial is mentioned by Fountainhall as having occurred in 1685.² Richard Rumbold, one of Cromwell's old Ironsides, and implicated with Argyle in Monmouth's rash schemes, was brought up, accused of sharing in the Rye House Plot. He had defended himself so stoutly against great odds that he was only taken when completely disabled by wounds, and the Court was hastily summoned to sit on the following morning, "that he might not preveen the public execution by his death." The evidence was found insufficient to convict him of taking part in the Rye House Plot; and the King's advocate proceeded accordingly to lead other accusations of treason

¹ Fountainhall's *Decisions*, vol. i. p. 159.

² *Ibid.* vol. i. p. 365.