

attorney, whose mind is made up and prepared to practice every trick and device which can defeat the mode of substantial justice."

Tindal might well speak of "Christ, our attorney, suffering for us."

The plunder from ships in the Thames alone was so enormous—nearly half a million a year—that in 1798 a marine office, with two magistrates, was established at Wapping New Stairs. At first it confined itself almost wholly to offences committed on the river or connected with the stores in arsenals, but gradually its jurisdiction extended until it became the present Thames Police Court.

The glories of Ratcliffe Highway have faded, but readers of DeQuincy's immortal history of the murders of Mar and Williamson, can form an idea of what it was eighty years ago, when the largest ships discharged up stream, and the purloins of the docks were "full of strange oaths," and the haunt of sailors of every race. Then, and until the advent of the large cargo steamers and short voyages, the Thames was the busiest police court in London, and it was not uncommon to hear as many as sixty summonses in a single day for wages alone—often for considerable amounts.

Thirty or forty years ago it supported four solicitors, all making good incomes; now it provides a bare living for two gentlemen who, with the aid of the police, maintain a close preserve, from which trespassers are jealously excluded. Some years ago a friend of mine, an able man and an excellent lawyer, endeavored to establish himself in Arbour Square, but was boycotted so effectually (one of the two gentlemen remarking that he would sooner do a case for nothing than let it go to him) that he was obliged to abandon the attempt.

Another difficulty to which Colquhoun refers is the absence of any provision for backing warrants, but this was supplied by 2 and 3 Vic., c. 71; 11 and 12 Vic., c. 42; 11 and 12 Vic., c. 43, and 42 and 43 Vic., c. 49. These statutes, added to 10 Geo. IV., c. 44, placed our police upon its present footing. Part of their effect is to enable the Queen to establish thirteen police courts (in addition to Bow Street), and to appoint any number of magistrates up to twenty-seven; the chief magistrate with a salary of one thousand eight hundred pounds, the others one thousand five hundred pounds each. There are now fourteen courts, with Bow Street, but only twenty-six magistrates.

The powers and duties of magistrates are derived, in the first instance, from the commission of peace, which directs them to "keep the peace," and "to keep and cause to be kept" all statutes for the maintenance of the same, and to bind over or commit any person guilty of threats of assault or fire. In addition to this, an ever-increasing load "*tam immensus aliarum super alias acervaturum legum cumulus*," both ministerial and judicial, is laid upon them by the babblers at St. Stephen's, upon whom, in