

what was the text," said the Bishop, in his well-known Aberdonian accent. None of the deputation could answer. "Go home," was the reply, "and I will write to Mr. Blank and tell him to preach the same sermon again next Sunday."

Speaking of the duty of counsel the writer referred to says: "After all, the duration of speeches must bear some relation to the importance and difficulties of the cases in hand, and in many matters it would clearly be impossible to present all the facts and all the arguments that may legitimately be directed to them in any given space of time. So long as indulgence is not violated, serious complaint is not heard. As was remarked to the writer by a barrister yesterday, only those who have pondered over a case for many days, searching out its weaknesses and how they can best be met, probing into precedents that tell one way or the other, can appreciate the difficulty of being brief. The fixing of an arbitrary limit to speech would inevitably end in many a case being inadequately presented, and would incur protest from both counsel and litigant."

As was well remarked by Lord Justice Mathew, when speaking of the waste of time by frequent repetition, "In my judgment the arguments most often repeated are the worst; the good ones take care of themselves."

A fine example of the way in which brevity of language may be combined with power of argument, and strength of expression, is to be found in that most brilliant of many brilliant chapters in Macaulay's History, in which he describes the trial of the seven bishops at the close of the reign of James the Second. The charge against the bishops was that a petition which they presented to the King was a false, malicious, and seditious libel. The youngest of the counsel for the defence was John Somers, then unknown to fame, but later known to history as a great lawyer, a great judge, and a great statesman. He was the last to speak for the bishops, and he only spoke for five minutes, but that five minutes' speech established his reputation as a orator and a constitutional lawyer. We quote from Macaulay: "The offence imputed was a false, a malicious,