

the rich groaned under his iron rod; and had the same persons who were punished by him for political writings dedicated even the Lord's prayer to him, they would have been sentenced for publishing treason. When he brought his information *ex officio*, he might have selected some detached passage, for the attorney general in those days, generally produced detached passages which might have supported his charge. The petition, "Thy kingdom come," might be said to mean the kingdom of the prince of Orange, who was invited over by the English to free them from the yoke of tyranny; and detached passages in any other piece are equally equivocal, and may be equally tortured.

As it was not in the power of ministry to prevent the book-sellers from publishing, though their punishments were enormous, they thought of going to the fountain-head to prevent the stream from flowing, and imagined that the most effectual method would be to prevent the people either from reading or speaking. With this view, a proclamation was issued for shutting up the coffee-houses, as places where discontent was disseminated, and grievances detected and exposed. This was considered as a *coup de maître*, but the spirit of liberty resembled Sampson, THE MORE IT WAS BOUND WITH CORDS, THE MORE IT INCREASED IN STRENGTH.

Petitions were presented to government, complaining that whilst those who wrote in defence of the constitution were groaning under pains and penalties, the publishers of works which struck at the very roots of religious and civil liberty, were suffered to go unquestioned, and in some cases were rewarded by government; but government was deaf to this remonstrance as well as to others. The string of power was strained, till at last it broke; and they who despaired while submissive, saved the nation by a generous opposition.

James, by coveting a power which he had not, lost that which he was possessed of, and by attempting to establish tyranny, lost the blessings of a limited monarch.

(To be continued.)

eminent lawyer (Sir John Hawles) "such a verdict hath generally been refused by the court, as no verdict; though it is said that it was lately allowed somewhere in a case that required favour." Since his time such verdicts have been received likewise in cases that it was predetermined to visit with severity. By such a compromise therefore, juries actually give to the judges, power to screen the guilty, and what is worse, to punish the innocent.

L. L. M.