

the County of Norfolk, by the incumbent Sheriff Rapelje to Laurence W. Mercer, for a money consideration and an annuity. Politics ran high at this time, and inasmuch as Mercer, who was to be the successor of Rapelje, would receive his appointment from the Government of the day, it was thought by those opposed to the Government, that it afforded a good weapon for the probable demolition of the Government. The Attorney-General was compelled to take notice of the matter, as there were complicating opinions as to the legality of the transaction. Mercer contending that he had not bought or negotiated for the purchase of the office, but only, that through political influence, Rapelje was to resign and he was to be appointed in his place. Mercer, before taking the step he did, had advised with counsel, and Doctor Connor was one of the counsel he consulted. The result was, that the transaction was consummated, so far as an agreement in writing could consummate it. The Attorney-General filed an information in the Queen's Bench against Mercer, claiming penalties, that the transaction was illegal, and contrary to the policy of the law. The Court decided that the agreement was void, and that by entering into it Mercer had subjected himself to penalties, which involved disability to hold the office. The judgment was forfeiture of office and the penalties.

From the Court the matter got into Parliament. On 17th February, 1859, Laurence W. Mercer petitioned the House to be relieved from the penalty of disqualification of office. Leave was given to bring in a Bill to remove the disqualification. The Bill was read the first time on 16th April, 1859, when Mr. Simpson moved, seconded by Mr. McMicken, that the Bill be read a second time. Mr. Rymal moved in amendment, that the Bill be read that day three months. The question did not come to a vote till the 23rd April, 1859 when the House divided, and twenty-five members voted for the amendment and fifty-one against. On the main question being put, that the Bill should pass the second read-