

midway in the sixteenth century the judges were mounted on mules, after the fashion of bishops and abbots. John Whiddon, a judge of the Common Pleas in 1553, is said by Dugdale to have been the first judge to appear in the procession on 'horse or gelding.' When judges rode to the Courts on horseback the pageantry of the law was rather more substantial than it is in our own time, when the judges ride to the Royal Courts of Justice on the opening day of the Michaelmas Sittings in broughams and landaus, and when it is customary for them to enter an assize town by the railway, and to be driven from the station to their lodgings amid the mere relics of ancient pomp. It is recorded that when Lord Bacon first rode to Westminster Hall he was arrayed in a gown of purple satin, and was preceded by a large body of clerks and inferior officers of Chancery, students of the law and serjeants, and followed by a long array of nobles, Privy Councillors, and judges. The last occasion on which there was a procession of judges on horseback was when the Earl of Shaftesbury, who held the Great Seal for a short time in the reign of Charles II., paid his first visit to Westminster Hall in state. The custom had disappeared for some considerable time, but he had 'an early fancy, or rather freak, the first day of the term to make this procession on horseback, as in old time the way was when coaches were not so rife.' So writes Roger North, who, after describing the large number of people who assembled to witness the cavalcade, adds: 'Being once settled to the march, it moved, as the design was, stately along; but when they came to straights and interruptions, for want of gravity in the beasts, or too much in the riders, there happened some curvetting which made no little disorder. Judge Twisden, to his great affright, and the consternation of his grave brethren, was laid along in the dirt, but all at length arrived safe, without loss of life or limb in the service. This accident was enough to divert the like frolic for the future, and the very next term after they fell to their coaches as before.' Some of the present occupants of the Bench occasionally arrive at the Royal Courts of Justice on horseback, but no accidents have been known to disturb their journeys. Other judges were less fortunate. Lord Campbell was once thrown from his steed while returning from the Guildhall, and Sir Cresswell Cresswell was killed by a fall from his horse; but the fatal accident occurred in Hyde Park, and not in connection with his duties as a judge.—*Law Journal (London)*.