

Sir Alexander Cockburn, the present Chief Justice of England, who had attended the trial and was convinced of Galley's innocence, took up the matter, and it was finally brought, by petition, before the House of Commons. Though the evidence adduced was almost conclusive against the justness of Galley's sentence, his release was opposed by Mr. Lowe for the remarkable reason that: "It would be wrong for Parliament to reverse decisions arrived at so many years ago by so eminent a judge, and confirmed by Lord John Russell and other eminent statesmen. 'If Galley had been wrongly convicted he certainly had assisted very much in his own conviction by the irregular life which he led. (Murmurs.) For some little time he himself held the office of Home Secretary. He was then asked to go into this case, but he refused to do so. (Ironical cheers.) He refused because, even if he had come to a decision contrary to that arrived at by Lord Chief-Justice Denman, he should not have deemed it his duty to interfere after the lapse of so long a period of time, and therefore he declined to go into the question at all.' (A laugh.) He continued that if the Commons took action they would adopt a principle which would render the continuity of administration in England impossible. Mr. Bright spoke of the trial as having taken place in barbarous times, when counsel were not allowed to address the jury and the prisoner had no counsel to defend him, and cited the Habron case and another recent trial where four men were sentenced to death, and an eminent lawyer declared that there was not a particle of evidence against one of them, and it was even doubtful if a murder had been committed." Mr. Lowe did not convince the House that to do what was simply right would establish a bad precedent, or that a decision by Lord John Russell was of more consequence than a subject's right of personal liberty.

GENERAL NOTES.

THE DRESS OF SOLICITORS.—An amusing incident occurred recently in the City of London Court. *Smith v. Newman*, was an action for damages by collision with the defendant's omnibus, tried before Mr. Commissioner Kerr. His Honor found a verdict for

the defendant, whose representative asked for costs. The Registrar (Mr. Speechley): "Are you the defendant's solicitor?" Answer: "I am not." His Honor: "Who or what are you, then?" Answer: "I am the defendant's 'bus conductor." [A laugh.] His Honor: "If I had known that I should not have heard you. You have practiced an imposition on the court—first, by occupying a place in the seat assigned for solicitors; and, secondly, by making speeches and asking questions, and leading us to believe you were a proper qualified member of the profession. Although you are well dressed, I might have judged from your occasional lapses of grammar that you were not what you either intentionally or otherwise represented yourself to be. However, I am not surprised. In my early days attorneys used to dress as gentlemen, but nowadays from their peculiar style of garments, it is hard to distinguish between a solicitor and Scotch terrier. [Laughter.] I shall certainly not allow the defendant any costs in this case. The idea of his sending one of his 'bus conductors to conduct his defence and simulate the part of a solicitor! I really do not know what we shall have next."

—The longest law suit is related to have been the famous "Berkley suit," which lasted upwards of 190 years, having commenced shortly after the death of Thomas, fourth Lord Berkley, in the reign of Henry V., 1416, and terminated in the seventh of James I., 1609. It arose out of the marriage of Elizabeth, only daughter and heiress of the above baron, with Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick—their descendants having continually sought to get possession of the castle and the lordship of Berkley, which not only occasioned the famous lawsuit in question, but was often attended with the most violent quarrels on both sides, at least during the first fifty years or more. In the year 1469, tenth of Edward IV., Thomas Talbot, second Viscount Lisle, great grandson of the above Elizabeth, residing at Wotton-under-Edge, was killed at Nibley-green, in a furious skirmish between some 500 of his own retainers, and about as many of those of William, then Lord Berkley, whom he had challenged to the field, who likewise headed his men; when, besides the brave but ill-fated young Lisle, scarcely of age at that time, about 150 of their followers were slain, and 300 wounded, chiefly of the Wotton party, who fled on the fall of their leader.