

## LORD ABINGER AND THE NORTHERN CIRCUIT.

lately crossed the English Channel and ascended the Seine to Paris. The Prince Regent now walks without the aid of a walking-stick. Mr. Scarlett had 82 briefs at Lancaster, in 78 of which he succeeded." The Attorney-General moved that the circuit should determine how many gallons, "not exceeding the number of his successful briefs." Mr. Scarlet should be fined for inserting this paragraph. Mr. Scarpleaded in mitigation that he had derived no benefit from the artifice he had recourse to, and he was fined five gallons. But as at the present assizes at Lancaster, the 78 successful verdicts of the last assizes had already dwindled down to 50, with small prospect of any increase, Mr. Scarlett was further condoled with in four gallons. At the same Grand Court Mr. Richardson was congratulated in three gallons on his equestrian skill in contriving to throw himself from his horse and "give himself so many beautiful marks on the face."

At the York assizes in 1821, Mr. Scarlett was fined for flattering himself that he had made a good speech for Sir Francis Burdett, whereas the whole merit of the speech belonged to Mr. Blackburn, who, "by his vigour, force and energy, reduced the judges to a perfect state of nonentity. He thundered, lightened, stamped, and roared in such a manner that every one thought that the devil or the Bonassus had broken loose." Mr. Williams (afterwards a Judge of the Court of King's Bench) was condoled with in for not having a nose for snuff, in consequence of which the Corporation of London had not presented him with a box; although, by way of compensation, the electors of Preston, in pure admiration of his talents, had sent him a warming-pan. At a subsequent court, Littledale was fined for having drawn an indictment with one hundred and twenty counts, "not one of which was applicable to the case;" and a quadrille got up in which Alderson, Tindal, Sergeant Cross, and others, danced to the tune of "Fol-de-rol-rol;" "but Alderson setting off wrong, put the rest out, and the whole was soon a scene of confusion."

We must now, however, pass on to a more distinguished name, and introduce Brougham upon the stage. It is well-known that he is the Mr. Quicksilver, and Mr. Scarlett, the Mr. Subtle, in Mr. Warren's famous novel of 'Ten Thousand a-Year,' which first appeared in the pages of *The Magazine*—and no name could have been more happily devised. It is unnecessary to speak of the prodigious acquirements of Brougham, which are known to everybody;

but we doubt whether the public are generally aware of the extraordinary versatility of his powers. We know writings of his, which he published anonymously, full of wit and fun, but of which he has never been suspected to be the author. His greatest speeches, both at the bar and in Parliament, have been collected, and are familiar to us all; but some of his admirable addresses to juries, both on circuit and in London, have not been reported, or can only be found in out-of-the-way corners, and by considerable research.

At the York Lent assizes in March 1822, Brougham was "Solicitor-General." The "Attorney-General" was Courtenay, who brought under the notice of the Grand Court an article in the *Edinburgh Magazine* which thus spoke of Mr. Scarlett: "He has the manners of a finished and perfect gentleman, and the air of a man of the world. . . . His person is stately and symmetrical, and his physiognomy almost too good for a man." He proposed, therefore, that Mr. Scarlett should take off his coat and show his symmetrical form that he might be congratulated upon it.

"I come next," he said, "to my friend Mr. Brougham, who is thus puffed in the *Magazine*," alluding to a breach of promise of marriage case—*Thompson v. Blamire*—in which Brougham, had been counsel for the plaintiff, "and kept the Court in convulsions of laughter for an hour and a half. Never was poor sinner rendered so unmercifully ridiculous as Blamire, the treacherous lover of the forsaken Sarah. Judge jury, bar, ladies, gentlemen, and 'swinish multitude,' were all equally acted on by the irresistible drollery and comic humour of this wonderful man." The Attorney-General proceeded:—

"Sir, I recollect the case, and it did produce immoderate laughter, but it was at the expense of our friend's own client. He did, however, get a paltry verdict of £100. I recollect a good story about Brougham's features. He stood for Westmoreland, and by means of the grossest bribery contrived to get a few votes. The bribe was a five-guinea piece, covered with pewter, with a likeness of Brougham on it. One voter, showing his piece to a friend, the other said, 'It is not like him!' 'Oh,' says the first, 'you miss the twitch in his face, but you cannot get that in pewter.'" Mr. Brougham was then congratulated in two guineas on his "change of features."

In the record of one of the Grand Courts we find competitive translations of the line—

"Flectere si nequeo superos, Acheronta movebo"—