

turning to the other judge of assize as he pointed to the large list of cases which had been so summarily disposed of, said: "Well, I think I have got through a vast deal of business to-day." Criminal cases have been as expeditiously disposed of as Chief Justice Patterson's list of circuit records. Mr. William Walker was Recorder of Dublin from 1795 till 1822. He was a great amateur farmer, and on one occasion he entered the court to discharge his judicial duties at an adjourned sessions and was horrified at hearing from the clerk of the peace that there were upwards of twenty larceny cases to be tried. "Oh," said he, "this is shocking. I have three acres of meadow cut, and I have no doubt that the haymaking will be neglected or mismanaged in my absence." In a few minutes he inquired in an undertone, "Is there any old offender on the calendar?" "Yes," was the reply; "there is one named Branagan, who has been twice convicted of ripping lead from roofs, and he is here now for a similar offence." "Send a turnkey to him," said the recorder, "with a hint that if he pleads guilty he will be likely to receive a light sentence." These directions were complied with, and the lead-stealer was put to the bar and arraigned. "Are you guilty or not guilty?" "Guilty, my Lord." "The sentence of the court is that you be imprisoned for three months. Remove him." Branagan retired delighted to find a short imprisonment substituted for the transportation he expected. As he passed through the dock he was eagerly interrogated by the other prisoners. "What have you got?" "Three months." "Only three months! His Lordship is in a good humour this morning." "Put forward another," said the recorder. The prisoners were rapidly arraigned and the same plea of "Guilty" marked in each case. Presently the calendar was exhausted. "Put the prisoners," said the recorder, "in front of the dock," and the men, who on having pleaded guilty had been put back, the sentences having been deferred, were mustered as the recorder directed. He then briefly addressed them: "The sentence of the court is that you and each of you be transported for seven years." Branagan had been thrown as a sprat and had