

aid in keeping the peace when the Earls gave up the wardship of the county. It was certainly in existence in the time of king Alfred, and the Coroner is mentioned in the charter of Athelstan to Beverly, anno 925 (1).

The precise designation of the officer appears to have varied from time to time. In the reign of Richard the First he was called *Coronarius*. In that of John, *Coronator* or *Custos placitorum coronæ*, because originally he had the custody of the rolls of the pleas of the crown. In the reign of Henry the Second, he was called *Serviens regis*, and in the Scotch law, *Crowner*, an appellation still in use among uneducated persons (2).

SECT. 2.

Qualifications.

Formerly, the office of Coroner was of such high repute that no one under the degree of knighthood could aspire to its attainment (3), and in the reign of Edward the Third a Coroner was actually removed from the office because he was a *merchant*! It has however now fallen from such pristine dignity, and though still of great respectability, no qualifications are required beyond being a man of the full age of twenty-one years, of sound mind, and a subject of her Majesty, and possessing the amount of education

(1) Jer. O. C. 3; Impey O. C. 473. (2) Jer. O. C. 2.

(3) 3 Ed. 1, ch. 10.