

C. J., *hesitante*, that there was no evidence of negligence of the defendants to which the accident could be attributed, and W. was properly non-suited at the trial.

Held, per Strong, C. J., that though the case might properly have been left to the jury, as the judgment of non-suit was affirmed by two Courts it should not be interfered with.

Appeal dismissed with costs.

Gibbons, Q. C., for appellant.

Nesbitt & Grier, for respondent.

‘RIDING THE CIRCUIT.’

The Lord Chief Justice has been combining pleasure with business on the South-Eastern Circuit by riding from one assize town to another on horseback. There was a time, of course, when horse-riding was the only means of travelling the circuit—when men spoke of ‘riding the circuit’ instead of ‘going the circuit.’ The late Serjeant Pulling refers in ‘The Order of the Coif’ to an address delivered by Chief Justice Dyer to a number of new serjeants in 1579, in which he advised them ‘to be discreet, to ride with six horses and their sumpter on long journeys, to wear their habit most commonly in all places at good assemblies, and to ride in a short gown.’ The custom of ‘riding the circuit’ gradually fell into desuetude as the number of coaches was increased. It was far from uncommon, however, in the days of Sir John Byles. This distinguished lawyer was accustomed not only to ride the circuit, but also to arrive at Westminster Hall on horseback; and the name of ‘Bills’ was bestowed upon the horse, so that members of the Bar might speak of ‘Byles on Bills,’ and indicate the close relationship that existed between the judge and his steed. Up to the reign of Charles II, the judges rode in procession to Westminster Hall on the opening day of each term, and oftentimes the cavalcade was imposing, the judges and advocates being accompanied by a retinue of men in livery. ‘In my way thither,’ wrote Mr. Pepys in his Diary, ‘I met the Lord Chancellor with the judges riding on horseback, it being the first day of the term.’ Such a procession might probably be a formidable business to most of the present occupants of the Bench, but it is likely they would prefer the restoration of this mode of proceeding to the halls of justice to the revival of the method that preceded it. Until