

There is nothing better in a bad case than to announce with emotional intensity that the effort of the opposing counsel would, if permitted to be successful, result in a decomposition of "vested rights;" or that they would ruthlessly impair the "solemn obligation of contracts;" or that they are permeated with "*ex post facto*" malignity.

Magistrates' courts, I have observed, are peculiarly susceptible to the seductive influence of constitutional law.

Nor, in these fundamental ramifications, should you confine yourself alone to the constitution of your particular State. You should "broaden yourself out" and take in the constitution of the Union; including the recent amendments, which, under a "broad-minded" construction, you may contend, with a fair hope of being allowed to proceed, to mean almost anything that your necessities require. Nay, your genius, if capable of still greater daring, may soar back to "*Magna Charta*" itself, and disport awhile amid reminiscences of "Runnymede," "King John," and the "Powerful Barons," who so often serve for padding in the powerful efforts of our locally great.

When, however, you feel that you can no longer sustain flight in the rarefied atmosphere of the lofty altitudes of constitutional law, be sure, in your downward descent, that you alight upon the "Statutes."

Now, in the great body of statutory law, it will be marvelous indeed if you cannot find something that will give you hope and comfort. Remember, in the first place, that all the statutes of England prior to the "fourth year of James I." are good as new here in Kentucky. Remember, too, that all the statutes of Virginia "prior to 1792" are also legal tender. Remember further, that all the statutes that fill the tremendous volumes of the "United States at Large," are of potency and that the great body of our own laws, as amended and improved by the constantly augmenting wisdom of succeeding legislative intelligences, has created a mass of profound statutory law, some of which will strength-