

the way. The judge might not in a good many instances be disposed to grant the application, and my object would thus be lost. These very kindly intended and ingenious amendments coming in at the ninth hour, I like not. But the honorable gentleman told us that where there would be no restraint in the issuing of writs much injury would ensue. We walk round our streets and see shops open for the sale of prussic acid, arsenic, or blue pills. What restrains the undue and unwise sale of these articles except the responsibility of the sellers? Nothing. So would it be in this case, and the honorable gentleman must believe us simple, indeed, if he supposes us likely to be frightened by arguments of that kind. Two or three of the opposers of this measure dwelt much upon the irresponsibility of those who would have the power of issuing writs and conducting the suits of others. They were quite willing that the Provincial secretary should be allowed the privilege. I can hardly conceive any man more likely to misbehave himself or incur the anger of these honorable gentlemen than he in whom they seem to have so much confidence. But then he says, "Would you allow a man straight from the penitentiary, to enter our courts as a practitioner and become a candidate for a judgeship?" In answer, let me give the honorable member an episode in the history of an English Chief Justice, whose career had been wild and reckless in his youth, but who had forsaken his vicious course. He became a judge, and while in the exercise of his judicial functions, a prisoner was brought before him, charged with the commission of a heinous crime. His features were familiar to the judge, and when the trial and condemnation of the poor fellow had passed, when the shades of night had fallen, and he had shrunk away to his cell to make his peace with God, the judge could not rest upon his pillow. He rose and visited the damp cell in which the prisoner was confined, and there, while the lamp flung its dim and sickly rays upon his palid features, the judge recognized one of the companions of his youth. In the course of his conversation, he asked the condemned man "How many of the old gang are yet alive?" "All hanged, please your Lordship, except you and I," was the rejoinder. I have heard it said, sir, that some members of our bar had volunteered their assistance in conducting the trial of Dr. Webster; I have no doubt but that the fate of that unfortunate man depends entirely upon their brilliant efforts! but I should much like to see such men as Webster and Choate come down here and give us some idea of their forensic powers. The honorable and learned member for King's told us that one legal gentleman did nearly all the commercial business in Hants county, and another was so engaged in Halifax. He