

his election as Recorder he had received the degree of the colt in February, 1679, and had been made King's Sergeant on May 12th, 1680. In the preceding month he had also been constituted Chief Justice of Chester, an office which he retained till he became Chief Justice of the King's Bench. He held the Recordership for two years, during which, though he did not betray all the violence and cruelty that afterwards distinguished him, he exhibited a sufficient inkling of his overbearing disposition. In his anxiety to follow the popular cry against Papists, he forgot the religious profession of his patron the Duke of York, going out of his way to insult the prisoners of that persuasion, against whom he had to pronounce sentence as Recorder, by ridiculing and inveighing against the doctrines they professed. He said to Ireland, Grove, and Pickering, the Jesuits, "Thus I speak to you, gentlemen, not vauntingly; 'tis against my nature to insult upon persons in your sad condition; God forgive you for what you have done, and I do heartily beg it, though you do not desire I should; for, poor men, you may believe that your interest in the world to come is secured to you by your Masses, but do not well consider that vast eternity you must ere long enter into, and that great tribunal you must appear before, where Masses will not signify so many groats to you, no, not one farthing; and I must say it for the sake of those silly people whom you have imposed upon with such fallacies, that the Masses can no more save you from future damnation than they do from a present condemnation. And I hope God Almighty will please to give you pardon in another world, though you have

offended beyond hopes of any in this. I once more assure you, all I have said is in perfect charity. So there remains now only for me to pronounce that sentence which by the law of the land the Court is required to do against persons convicted of that offence which you are convicted of." And then came from his lips the hurdle, the hanging, the cutting down alive, and other particulars too shocking to be repeated. (7 State Trials, 138). Jeffrey's conduct as Chief Justice of Chester was severely commented upon in the House of Commons by Henry Booth (afterward second Baron Delamere), who declared that Jeffreys "behaved himself more like a jack-pudding than with that gravity that beseems a Judge." In the struggle which arose from the delay in assembling Parliament, Jeffreys took an active part on the side of the "Abhorrrers." A petition having been presented from the city, complaining that the Recorder had obstructed the citizens in their attempts to have Parliament summoned, a select committee was appointed to inquire into the charge, and on the 13th of November, 1680, it was resolved that "Sir George Jeffreys, by traducing and obstructing petitioning for the sitting of this Parliament hath betrayed the rights of the subject," and that the King should be requested to remove him "out of all public offices." (Journals of the House of Commons, vol. ix., p. 653). The King merely replied that "he would consider of it," but Jeffreys was "not Parliament proof," and having submitted to a reprimand on his knees at the bar of the House, resigned the Recordership on December 2nd, 1680. In a few days after took place one of Lord Shaftesbury's famous Protestant processions, on the