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The last survival of the numerous old-time forensic evils suffered by lawyers and their clients, namely, the despotism of the Bench, is falling into "innocuous desuetude" with the passing of the present century. The demand for the betterment of judicial behaviour which began to be so ably put forward by the professional and leading lay press in England some years ago, was promptly taken up by their colonial contemporaries with the most gratifying results both to the Bar and to suitors. It is only occasionally now that we hear of some ruffian in high judicial place trying to play the role of Jeffreys; and it is very interesting to note how speedily he comes off his high horse when menaced with exposure in the public prints. It was the boast of seventeenth century reformers that even the unspeakable Jeffreys himself was not "Parliament-proof;" it is our peculiar pride to know that his modern disciples are not even "newspaper-proof." In the celebrated Yelverton case, 1893 A.C. 138, their lordships of the Privy Council dealt a staggering blow to the doctrine of constructive contempts subsisting in newspaper criticism of the judges. They there hold that where an article, published in the press, containing criticisms which might have been made the subject of proceedings for libel, was not calculated to obstruct or interfere with the course of justice or the administration of the law, it did not constitute a contempt of court. The press is not afraid of a fair trial in respect of any charge that may be preferred against it; it does object to being made the victim of spite and malevolence through a medium which defies and subverts every cardinal principle of civil liberty.