

22 days. The hearing of the plaintiff's case lasted 70 days. The opening speech for the defence lasted a month. (Laughter) And, most astonishing of all, the summing up of Chief Justice Cockburn in the subsequent proceedings for perjury which were taken against the person who claimed to be the inheritor of the Tichborne estates—the summing up of the Chief Justice Cockburn lasted 18 days and occupied 188 columns of the Times newspaper. Well, that was something like a case. (Laughter.) And Charles Bowen's biographer points out that Mr. Bowen was engaged as a junior in that case from the middle of 1871 to end of February 1874, and his biographer says this: "He devoted to it the whole of his powers, intellectual and physical. His familiarity with every fact of it was complete. He used to say that he did not believe that there was a single fact or a single date in the evidence of which he was not fully cognizant and of which he was not prepared on the spur of the moment to give an immediate and correct account." And yet, ladies and gentlemen, when that Tichborne case was over, when the Tichborne estates down there in Hampshire were confirmed in the hands of the man to whom they really belonged, and when this unhappy claimant had been sentenced to seven years' penal servitude, I should doubt whether there was a single fact, or a single date, or a single circumstance in the whole of that immense accumulation of detail—all of which was in Charles Bowen's memory—that was of the slightest permanent value or interest to anybody on earth.

There is the real character of a lawyer's life. He is constantly under the duty—and if he regards his profession seriously it is a most solemn duty—of learning the detail about his client's business with a precision and a minuteness which passes long beyond the bounds of what is interesting or permanent, and when he has done it he has to face the circumstance that this vast and detailed study may very well, to a large extent, be wasted labour. Truth may lie at the very bottom of the well, and all the pumping out of the liquid that lies above it only serves to find at last the one small point, which a practising lawyer so often discovers to be the key and heart of the mystery.

Next to the advocate's willingness to seize upon, analyze