

wooden leg? He may be called a crooked justice indeed, for his mind is as deformed as his body ; he's a true emblem of the whole bench. In short, sir, that judicature which was so famous for justice and literature when you went abroad, is now patch'd up of a pack of country lairds, and old, senseless, greedy, covetous clerks, with two or three pick'd advocates who are purely led by their interest and humour."

No time was lost in rearing anew the vanished babels, from which the rank and judicial wisdom, as well as the chicanery of Edinburgh and its courts, had been thus ruefully driven forth. In my own younger days the buildings in the Parliament Close still maintained their old pre-eminence as the loftiest lands in Edinburgh. Though only twelve stories high, the floors were built with higher ceilings, and the vast pile rose from the Cowgate in all its former imposing altitude. An open piazza, decorated with pillasters and a Doric entablature, after the model of the quadrangle of Holyrood Palace, ran round the whole south and west fronts within the Parliament Close, and was continued along the front of the land facing the cross, which survived the second destructive conflagration, and so was known in later years as "The Salamander Land." With the picturesque old turrets and sculpture of the Parliament House still untouched, as in the days of the First Charles ; and old St. Giles's unchanged as when its gifted provost, Gawin Douglas, was penning the pro-