

sort of forensic pastime, how happy that Judge would be who could adopt Lord Hardwicke's boast when leaving the wool-sack, and say; "Whilst I presided in my court (20 years), I never had one of my decisions reversed, and but three of them appealed against."

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If for nothing else, Lord Chief Justice Holt deserves to be forever remembered in forensic annals for his intrepid assertion, in the celebrated case of *Ashby v. White*, of the freedom of the Courts of Justice from Parliamentary interference. When Ashby brought his action in the Queen's Bench against the returning officers, etc., of the borough of Aylesbury for not receiving his vote, the House of Commons was scandalized that a court should presume to exercise jurisdiction over a matter which concerned an election to that body, and ordered all the parties concerned therein, including the attorneys and counsel, to be taken into custody. The Chief Justice was also ordered to attend the House, but he proudly disregarded the summons. Thereupon the Speaker was directed to proceed with the mace to the Court of Queen's Bench and command his attendance upon the House. When the Speaker had announced his mission, the doughty Chief Justice scornfully eyed him for a moment and then replied: "Mr. Speaker, if you do not depart from this Court, I will commit you *though you had the whole House of Commons in your belly!*" Queen Anne found it necessary to prorogue Parliament in order to put an end to the dispute.

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