

the year 1892, this Court heard and disposed of 707 cases, the arguments in which must have covered at least 1,000 hours, without including the time spent in consultation and reading opinions; in these cases 1,400 printed paper-books were examined, and 700 opinions written. The State reporter has published up to date over 7 volumes of decisions handed down during 1892, each one of which contains over 600 pages. Well might Chief Justice Paxson say, in speaking of the death of Mr. Justice Clark: 'It may not be inappropriate for me to say that our Brother Clark is the fifth Justice of the Court who has died in commission since I have been a member of it. Our labors are now so exacting that nothing short of a constitution of iron will carry a man through a term of twenty-one years.' (144 Pa. 26.)

**THEORIES OF INSANITY.**—It has been doubted by distinguished minds whether any man lives, or ever has lived, wholly free from a taint of mental unsoundness on all topics, at all times, and under all circumstances. Dr. Johnson declared that "all power of fancy over reason is a degree of insanity," and Montaigne affirmed that between madness and genius there is but "a half turn of the toe." Our ordinary life borders all the time on insanity, according to the philosopher Taine, "and we cross the frontier in some part of our nature." All of which is fair food for speculation and thought among persons of learning and culture. But society cannot entertain any theories of insanity which make men who know what they are doing, and know that it is wicked, unlawful and forbidden on pain of death, unaccountable for their acts. It was the late Chief Justice Cockburn, of England, who, as a young barrister, while pleading for Robert Pate, who struck the Queen in the face with his cane, invented the now well-worn phrase "uncontrollable impulse." Pate, as he argued, struck Victoria under an "uncontrollable impulse." But Baron Alderson, who tried the case, gravely and wittily said in his charge: "The law does not recognize such an impulse. If a person was aware that it was a wrong act he was about to commit, he was answerable for the consequences. A man might say that he picked a pocket from some uncontrollable impulse, and in that case the law would have an uncontrollable impulse to punish him for it." It is reported that a leading criminal lawyer has been retained, through private subscription, to assist the district attorney in the prosecution of the assassin of Mayor Harrison.—*Albany Law Journal.*