

17. Every justice of the peace who is anxious to preserve the honour of the laws, will never discourage appeals against his own convictions, or in any way obstruct or influence the decision of such appeals; and as often as the letter or spirit of the law appears to him to have borne with undue severity on individuals, or families, he will benevolently ascertain the extenuating circumstances of the case, and bring them in due form before the bench in sessions, or before the grand jury at the assizes, in order that the suffering party may, through their recommendation to the proper authority, obtain the royal pardon.

18. A discreet magistrate will, on all occasions, avoid mixing in decisions that involve his personal interests, his family connexions, his friendships, or his known or latent enmities. In all such cases, he ought magnanimously to retire from the bench at sessions, or to call one or more of the neighbouring magistrates into his jurisdiction. He should remember that his character will be in a state of hazard whenever his predilections as a private man, a politician, or a theologian, interfere with the independence of his judgments as a magistrate.

19. A paternal magistrate will do more good in his neighbourhood by his advice and example, than by the force of authority and coercion. He should lend his countenance to the virtuous, and his protection to the unfortunate; but, above all, he should set a good example in his own conduct, and exact it from all in authority beneath him; because he can never punish with effect any vices which he practises himself, or tolerates in his agents; and their combined example will prove more powerful than all the instruments of judicial terror.

20. A justice of the peace, holding a commission from a constitutional King of England, and his authority under the mild laws of England, will always feel that his power is conferred for the purpose of increasing the happiness of all who are subject to his cognizance, and within his jurisdiction, that he is the guardian of the public morals, a conservator of the peace, and protector of the public and personal rights of the people; and that it much depends on the wisdom and prudence of justices of the peace, whether the social compact which binds the people into one nation, under one ruler, and one code of laws, serve as a curse or a blessing.