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In *United States v. King*, 34 Fed. Rep. 302, Lacombe, J., charging the jury as to the time necessary to form an intent to take life, quoted an oft-told incident. He said: "The human mind acts at times with marvellous rapidity. Men have sometimes seen the events of a life-time pass in a few minutes before their mental vision. Rear-Admiral Sir Francis Beaufort was once nearly drowned. During the brief period of apparent unconsciousness after he sank for the third time, his mind reviewed every event of his past life. His account of his experience, quoted in Miss Martineau's *Biographical Sketches*, is very interesting. 'The course of those thoughts,' he says, 'I can even now in a great measure retrace. The event which had just taken place; the awkwardness which produced it; the bustle it must have occasioned; the effect it would have on a most affectionate father; the manner in which he would disclose it to the rest of the family; and a thousand other circumstances minutely associated with home—were the first series of reflections that occurred. They took then a wider range; our last cruise; a former voyage and shipwreck; my school, the progress I had made there, and the time I had mis-spent; and even all my boyish pursuits and adventures. Thus travelling backward, every past incident of my life seemed to glance across my recollection in retrograde succession; not however in mere outline, as here stated, but the picture filled up with every minute and collateral feature. In short, the whole period of my existence seemed to be placed before me in a kind of panoramic review, and each act of it seemed to be accompanied by a consciousness of right or wrong, or by some reflection on its cause or its consequences. Indeed many trifling events, which had been long forgotten, then crowded into my imagination, and with the character of recent familiarity.' If this mental action continued until he was fully restored

to consciousness, the time consumed was about twenty minutes. Admiral Beaufort however was always convinced that it lasted only during submersion; if so, all these events swept before his mental vision in the space of two minutes. Thought is sometimes referred to as the very symbol of swiftness.

'Haste me to know 't, that I, with wings as swift
As meditation, or the thoughts of love,
May sweep to my revenge.'

—*Hamlet: Act I., Scene 5.*

There is no time so short but that within it the human mind can form a deliberate purpose to do an act; and if the intent to do mischief to another is thus formed as a deliberate intent, though after no matter how short a period of reflection, it none the less is malice. Malice, in the old definitions, is spoken of as express or implied. That again is a distinction which is a delusion and a snare. Practically, jurymen never deal with express malice. There is no express evidence of malice given to them. Malice, as I have told you, is an intent of the mind and heart. There is never presented to a jury direct evidence of what was the intent of the man's heart at the time."

Meeson v. Addison et al., which, as reported by Mr. Haggard in his latest fiction, will probably be read by many lawyers during the vacation, is passably interesting and well told. In humour, however, it falls far behind the famous case of *Bardell v. Pickwick*. There is no explanation suggested, moreover, why the will was not executed upon the sail which was used to cover the damp floor of the hut, or upon a piece of board, rather than upon the lady's shoulders.

English knowledge of American geography has never been very profound. It is not surprising, therefore, that members of the legal profession, even in a public announcement, should betray ignorance such as is apparent in the following advertisement:—"Any lawyer from Michigan, State of Ohio, U. S. A., now in England, is requested to place himself in communication with Mr. Geo. Lewis, 10 and 11, Ely-place, Holborn. E. C."