

wise than by eating and drinking with lawyers; and so far I find the circuit perfectly agreeable. I write this in the morning lest I should not have time after. There is not, to be sure, much probability of my being overwhelmed with business, but I may possibly have my time filled up with hearing others for the remainder of the day. . . . My gown and wig do not make their appearance till two or three hours hence, as great part of the morning is taken up by the judge's going to church, where it does not seem the etiquette for counsel to attend."

Pitt did not receive many briefs on circuit, but he showed his ability in what work he did. At Salisbury, in the summer of 1781, he was employed by Mr. Samuel Petrie as junior counsel in some bribery causes that had resulted from the Cricklade Election Petition. There are reports of two speeches that he made in these causes, but neither report extends to more than a few lines. In giving judgment on the point which the second of these speeches involved, Mr. Baron Perryn said, that "Mr. Pitt's observations had great weight with him." It is also recorded that, while acting as counsel for Petrie, Pitt received some high compliments from Mr. Dunning, the leader of the Bar. Nor was this his only exhibition of capacity as an advocate. "I remember also," wrote Mr. Jekyll, one of his brother barristers on the circuit, "that in an action of crim. con. at Exeter, he manifested as junior counsel such talents in cross-examination that it was the universal opinion of the Bar that he should have led the cause."

In London Pitt was equally assiduous in his attention to his profession. Mr. Justice Rooke used to relate how Pitt had dangled several days with a junior brief, and a single guinea fee, waiting till a cause of no sort of importance should come on in the Court of Common Pleas. On another occasion, on a motion for a Habeas Corpus in the case of a man who was charged with murder, in the Court of King's Bench, Mr. Pitt made a speech which excited the admiration of the Bar, and drew down some words of praise from Lord Mansfield. He was retained as junior to Erskine in the case of *Kex v. Bate Duäley*.