

retract his words and make a humble apology, on pain of deprivation. All of a sudden, Wedderburn seemed to have subdued his passion, and put on an air of deliberate coolness, when, instead of the expected retraction and apology, he stripped off his gown, and, holding it in his hands before the judges, he said: "My Lords, I neither retract nor apologize; but I will save you the trouble of deprivation; there is my gown, and I will never wear it more—*virtute me involvo*." He then coolly laid his gown upon the bar, made a bow to the judges, and, before they had recovered from their amazement, he left the court, which he never again entered."

Another Scotchman, who also rose to be Lord Chancellor of England, played a nobler part in his contention with the bench. In 1784 the Dean of St. Asaph was indicted at Shrewsbury for seditious libel, and he was defended by Thomas Erskine. The jury found him "Guilty of publishing only." Buller, J.: "If you find him guilty of publishing, you must not say the word 'only.'" Erskine: "By that they mean to find there was no sedition." Juror: "We only find him guilty of publishing. We do not find anything else." E.: "I beg your Lordship's pardon, and with great submission. I am sure I mean nothing that is irregular. I understand they say, 'We only find him guilty of publishing.'" Juror: "Certainly, that is all we do find." B.: "If you only attend to what is said, there is no question or doubt." E.: "Gentlemen, I desire to know whether you mean the word 'only' to stand in your verdict." Jurymen: "Certainly." B.: "Gentlemen, if you add the word 'only' it will be negating the innuendoes." E.: "I desire your Lordship, sitting here as judge, to record the verdict as given by the jury." B.: "You say he is guilty of publishing the pamphlet, and that the meaning of the innuendoes is as stated in the indictment." Juror: "Certainly." E.: "Is the word 'only' to stand part of the verdict?" Juror: "Certainly." E.: "Then I insist it shall be recorded." B.: "Then the verdict must be misunderstood; let me understand the jury." E.: "The jury do understand their verdict." B.: "Sir, I will not be interrupted." E.: "I stand here as an advocate for a brother citizen, and I desire that the word 'only' may be recorded." B.: "Sit down, sir, remember your duty, or I shall be obliged to proceed in another manner." E.: "Your Lordship may proceed in what manner you think fit; I know my duty, as well as your Lordship knows yours. I shall not alter my conduct." (Campbell, *Ibid*, p. 432).