

also to the parliamentary duty required of those filling the highest Judgeships, political considerations in a measure controlled in the appointments to these posts; but even in these instances the choice was nearly always made from men whose mental worth and accomplishments had raised them to a position of leadership at the bar. The object appears to have been that the Judge should be a real expert—the very best that his country could afford for the work to be done.

But as judicial integrity is the foundation stone of any administration of justice so better than all else is the record of high character. Always have existed. Justice has been sometimes delayed, and many Judges who, with the opportunities before them, should have been the initiators of reform, were slow to take steps for the simplifying of the complicated and expensive legal machinery of the Courts and for the abolition of outworn and unjust laws. But it has been rare in the last two or three hundred years that an Englishman might not feel assured, in approaching a Court of justice, that no consideration in the mind of the Court would outweigh the desire to reach a right judgment. Perhaps the mere fact that the Judges kept themselves honest does not merit praise, but even in England the same high standard has not always been maintained. A reminder of a time when less creditable conditions existed is found in the words quaintly spoken of Sir Randolph Crewe, that Chief Justice of the King's Bench who forfeited his office rather than sanction the illegal practices of Charles the First in obtaining supplies of money. Contrasting his independent conduct with that of the corrupt Judges who yielded to the King's wishes, Hollis, a member of Parliament, finely said: "He kept his innocence when others let theirs go . . . which raises his merit to a higher pitch. For to be honest when everybody is honest, when honesty is in fashion and is trump, as I may say, is nothing so meritorious; but to stand alone in the breach—to own honesty when others dare not do it, cannot be sufficiently applauded, nor sufficiently rewarded."

It is an honourable record, the making of which has counted