

of Court, and that to support him there his grandmother should allow him forty pounds a year, and that his father should add ten pounds a year for decent clothing. On May 19th, 1663, to his great joy, he was admitted a member of the Inner Temple; and in an obscure apartment, commenced a study of the municipal law very diligently, while at the same time his pecuniary means were such as to call upon his best wits for subsistence in a profession which bore a distinguished character for gentility. He not only had a natural boldness of eloquence, but an excellent head for law. But he could not long resist the temptations of bad company. Having laid in a very slender stock of law, he forsook the "moots and readings" for the tavern, where was his greatest delight. He seems, however, to have escaped the ruinous and irreclaimable vice of gaming, but to have fallen into all others to which reckless Templars were prone. Yet he seems to have always had a keen eye to his own interest; and in these scenes of dissipation he assiduously cultivated the acquaintance of young attorneys and their clerks, who might afterwards be useful to him. He could not afford to give them rich treats at his chambers, but when they met over a bowl of punch at the Devil's tavern, or some worse place, he charmed them with songs and jokes, and took care to bring out before them opportunely any scrap of law which he had picked up, to impress them with the notion that when he put on his gown and applied himself to business, he should be able to win all causes in which he might be retained. He was very popular, and he had many invitations to dinner,

which; to make his way in the world, he thought it better to accept than to waste his time over the midnight oil, in acquiring knowledge which it would never be known that he knew, and therefore was not worth knowing.

He was often in his student days in great financial difficulties, the £10 allowed him by his father for "decent clothing" for a year being expended in a single suit of cut velvet, and his grandmother's £40 being insufficient to pay his tavern bills. But he displayed much address in obtaining prolonged and increased credit from his tradesmen. Being a handsome young fellow, and capable of making himself acceptable to modest women, in spite of the bad company which he kept, he resolved to repair his fortunes by marrying an heiress; and he fixed upon the daughter of a country gentleman of large possessions, who, on account of his agreeable qualities, had invited him to his house. The daughter, still very young, was cautiously guarded; but Jeffreys contrived to make a confidant and friend of a poor relation of hers, who was the daughter of a country clergyman, and who lived with her as a companion. But the plot being discovered, the poor girl was instantly dismissed, and coming up to town to tell of her failure, the discarded lover took pity on her and married her. Her father, notwithstanding the character and circumstances of his proposed son-in-law, sanctioned their union, and to the surprise of all parties gave her a fortune of £300. Accordingly, "on the 23rd of May, 1667, at Allhallows Church, Barking, George Jeffreys, of the Inner Temple, Esq., was married to Sarah, the daughter of the Reverend Thomas Neesham,