

the grand inquest—nineteen of them. Probably many of them might think that was a small matter, there being nineteen instead of twenty-three; but if they began to take the limbs off the body, there were plenty of people ready to take the body to pieces also. Depend upon it, if they wished to maintain the grand jury as one of the institutions of the country, they must show their readiness and willingness to maintain it in its entirety. Dislocation was very often the commencement of death. It was not often that any very serious duty had to be performed by them; but if they let that institution go and a time came when it would have been a most influential factor in the country, those who lived to see it would be very sorry. That was the case with many other things. Once undone, they could not go back and recall them. Depend upon it, they should think well before they gave up any institution. Referring particularly to the changes made in the arrangement of the assizes, he said the clerk of the assize and his fellows were now called upon to perform duties which the grand jury never saw performed by them before.

This was one of the results of persons controlling and regulating matters they had not been accustomed to. The judges had been parties to it because they could not help themselves. But the clerk of the assize complained, and he was sorry to say he was not the only person perhaps who had a right to complain. Certain regulations which were thought desirable could only be got by cutting off and taking away other officers. The judge was to have one clerk instead of two. If his clerk was ill—as often was the case, and he had one very ill at that moment—he must find another out of his own pocket. But he was only to have one clerk; and as they went on with those changes, so would the Treasury get a little money into their purse. Attempts were made to do away with the marshals; and he would just like to ask the grand jury, Would any of them like to be sent to hard labor—and it was hard labor—for hours and hours every day, and then go into a solitary room.