

## On the Midland Circuit.

By HENRY KIRKE, M.A., B.C.L.

**B**Y the kindness of Mr. Marston C. Buszard, K.C., I have had the opportunity of inspecting the Records of the Midland Circuit, which includes the County of Derby. Through all the changes which this Circuit has undergone Derby, owing to its position, has always been one of its principal centres ; Assizes and Quarter Sessions have been held there from time immemorial. Sessions were also formerly held at Bakewell, but were discontinued in 1797. The Assizes were held at Chesterfield instead of Derby in the spring of 1638 (probably on account of the plague) and the Michaelmas Sessions were held at Chesterfield from 1618 to 1797.

The Records such as they are begin in 1773 the earlier ones having been lost ; and this is not to be wondered at if they were kept in the same manner as the earliest that survive. They were apparently written in flimsy cheap memorandum books, and as they consisted principally of fines levied in Circuit Mess, the minutes of which were erased as soon as the fines were paid, they were apparently considered unworthy of preservation. Although these Records contain many entries of interest, the majority of the minutes consists of fines levied on members of the Circuit Mess for trivial breaches of the very strict etiquette which has always prevailed at the Bar. In fact the books might be more appropriately called Records of the Midland Circuit Mess, as they are confined exclusively to the proceedings of that sociable but somewhat arbitrary society. As the Mess was of a decidedly jovial nature the great endeavour seems to have been to

increase the Wine fund ; every excuse was seized upon to levy a contribution on a peccant member ; in fact we find entries of fines inflicted for not doing something which might lead to an increase in the wine fund.

The most frequent offences which were presented at the Circuit Courts were connected with the offence of " Huggery " which was defined as the acceptance of any civility from an attorney, showing him any kindness, travelling with him, or dancing with his wife, daughter or any female relative. " Puffing " was also a serious offence which might be committed by writing to the local papers, polite remarks to a judge, or in any way bringing yourself into notice. Being in a Circuit town before the opening of the Commission, travelling in a public conveyance, paying too much or too little for lodgings, dining with the Judges or High Sheriff, or giving them dinners were all offences to be presented at Circuit Court.

" Congratulations " were also a fertile source of income for the wine fund. Promotion in the profession to Recordships, Judgships, etc., entailed a heavy fine ; whilst the marriage of a member or a birth in his family were also fit subjects for " Congratulation." All these prosecutions were more jocular than serious, but occasionally we meet with serious breaches of professional etiquette which were visited with condign punishment, even to expulsion from the Mess, which was almost tantamount to ruin in a man's professional career.

On the old Midland Circuit assizes were held at Northampton, Oakham, Leicester, Lincoln, Nottingham, Derby, Warwick and Coventry, and Circuit Courts at which presentments were made and other business transacted were held twice or more on each Circuit. The Mess dined at one of the principal Hotels in the town visited, the wine being provided from their own cellars.

It may appear strange to us, reading some of the following extracts from the Records of the Circuit Mess, that

learned barristers many of them Judges, Sergeants at Law, King's Counsel, or Members of Parliament should indulge in such trivialities and absurdities: but the license of a Circuit Mess must have been a wholesome relaxation from the dull dry intricacies of legal practice which had occupied them all the day.

In the following extracts from the Records I have selected as many as I can relating to Derby and its neighbourhood, the others are illustrative of the habits and customs of the Circuit from 1773 to 1819:—

1773, LEICESTER.

Mr. White to be presented for violently & forcibly taking from the late worthy Recorder 2 guās being the property of the Circuit & refusing to redeliver the same to the s<sup>d</sup> late Recorder though often requested, by which his successor was obliged to take only so small a sum as one Pound seven instead of 3 pounds. N.G.

The Recorder was generally the junior member of the Bar going the Circuit: he kept the Records, entered the minutes and collected the fines.

1773, DERBY.

Mr. Green presented as an incendiary upon conviction of Mr. Reynaldson & Mr. White respecting his false charge ag<sup>t</sup> Mr. Bakewell. N.G.

The Recorder fined a bottle for not explaining the Record. Mr. Dayrell fined a bottle for the heinous sin of huggery by dining with an attorney when his brethren were dining at the George.

The George was in old days an Inn of considerable note, situated at the back of Sadlergate and Irongate. In 1745 the Duke of Devonshire met the gentlemen of the County at the George Inn to consult anent the defence of the Realm. The Circuit Mess seems to have held its dinners there.

Moved seconded & carried that the Recorder be directed to provide half a buck at the next summer Circuit out of the funds of the Circuit, & Mr. Abney be desired to favour us with his company to dine & compute.

## WARWICK TO WIT, MAR. 7TH, 1774.

Mr. Balguy wagers a bottle of Port with Mr. Wheeler that a mineral Cause in which George Morewood Esq. is plt will be tried at the next summer Assizes at Derby or before.

Mr. White is presented for saying the Records are become a heap of trash *et multis aliis quos nunc prescribere longum est*. Fined a bottle of Port.

## DERBY, 1774.

Mr. White wagers a bottle of Port with Mr. D'Ewes that Mr. Dunning was appointed Solicitor General in the year 1767.

Dunning became Solicitor General January 28th, 1768. in the Duke of Grafton's administration.

Mr. White p<sup>d</sup> 1 guā for being appointed Recorder of Nottingham.

Mr. Balguy bets Mr. Newnham a bottle of Port that the figure in the picture over the chimney of "The Bowlers" the man is represented as holding the bowl in both hands. Lost by Mr. Balguy. Mr. Newnham is congratulated on being elected M.P. for Arundel 1 guā. & Mr. Cust as M.P. for Helston 1 guā Mr. Adams as Recorder of Daventry 1 guā That the Recorder be fined a bottle of Port for the following spirited declaration "Whilst I continue in office I will keep a vigilant eye on the Whigs but I shall never fine a Tory." On the question being carried ag<sup>t</sup> him & Mr. Coke standing his only friend he was further unanimously fined another bottle for saying "Mr. Coke is the only man amongst you that is worth sixpence."

Mr. Jacob Reynold p<sup>d</sup> 1 guā on being appointed Commissioner of Hackney Coaches.

Mr. Green bets Mr. Newnham a bottle of Port that in the line *Hei mihi quod amor est nullis medicabilis herbis* the word *quod* is long. & the above a good verse. Lost by Mr. Green Mr. Willis bets Mr. D'Ewes a gallon of Port that David Rizzio came into Scotland before Hans Holbein died. As the above gentlemen came into Court without any evidence the case was withdrawn.

Mr. White congratulated as Recorder of Stamford 1 guā.

Mr. Coke presented for proposing to throw the Recorder out of the window

2/6

From this date to 1781 the Records are wanting.

## SUMMER CIRCUIT, 1782.

Mr. Blake presented for addressing himself to Mr. Dayrell & saying "The whoredoms of his mother Jezebel" & also to be presented for saying that he did not mean to apply the above personally to Mr. Dayrell but to the whole company

Mr. Clarke congratulated on his marriage 5/-  
1 guā.

## DERBY, MAR. 16, 1783.

Isted wagers 2 bottles with Burgess that the Duke of Queensbury is 60 years old.

The Duke of Queensbury was really 58 years old.

Mr. White acknowledges that the present Lady Mayoress was assigned over to him before a Judge & that he is accountable to the Circuit for the faithful discharge of his trust. Mr. White congratulated on the faithful discharge of his trust & fined a bottle.

On the 17th March at 4<sup>45</sup> p.m. by the Recorder's watch Mr. Sergeant Hill wagers a bottle with Burgess that Lord Thurlow was at that moment Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain.

George Hill of an old Northamptonshire family was born in 1716. He was called to the Bar and joined the Midland Circuit. His practice was at first small but he gained a great reputation for exceptional knowledge of case law. Owing to his intricate arguments he went by the name of Serg<sup>t</sup> Labyrinth. He died 21st February, 1808.

On the coalition of Fox and North the former insisted upon Thurlow's resignation, and the King at length yielding, Thurlow retired with a pension of £2,680 and the Great Seal was put in commission 9th April, 1783.

## WARWICK.

Mr. White presented for being at Northampton 2 days before Commission day. 5/-

Mr. Restall presented for having told the Recorder he might record & be damned Fined 2 bottles

Mr. White presented for saying I wish to God our Recorder could write, & I take it the Records have been altered.  
2 bottles.

Mr. Newnham presented for riding out of Ancaster with a pipe in his mouth. 1 bottle.

Mr. Bateman congratulated on his appointment as Recorder of Derby 1 guā.

JULY, 1785.

Mr. Restall presented Mr. White for saying in the Council Room at Warwick that he found the only language fit to treat the Midland Circuit with were satire & folly 2/6  
The Recorder is directed to order a dinner at 5/- a head for the 2<sup>d</sup> Saturday in the next Michaelmas term for the Circuit at the house of Mr. Ibbotson in Dean St. Soho, dinner to be on the table at 4<sup>30</sup> p.m., & that the sum of 5 guās be kept in the hands of the Recorder out of the Circuit fund to be paid towards the expenses of the dinner; that notice be sent to each member, & that Serg<sup>t</sup> Hill Mr. Trail & Mr. Almack be invited.

Mr. Clarke presented for dancing with an attorney's daughter at Derby 2/6

LINCOLN, JLY. 23RD, 1787.

Mr. Hutton presented for putting a bawd in the pillory to the great injury of the Circuit 2/6

Mr. Balguy congratulated on his appointment as dep. Recorder of Nottingham 1 guā.

Mr. Bateman presented for saying Damn the Records they may be burnt at this time of night. Fined 1 bottle.

Mr. Balguy congratulated on his appointment as Steward of the Peverel Court. 1 guā.

DERBY, AUG. 3, 1789.

Mr. Errington was found guilty of dancing with 2 attorneys wives & one attorneys sister at Derby 5/-

It appears from the Records that an assize ball was regularly held in the Assembly Rooms at Derby. The old Assembly Rooms were opened in 1714; the new Rooms were built between 1763 and 1774.

WARWICK S. C. 1790.

Mr. Hutton presented for writing a letter to John Hallgarth farmer at Theal n<sup>r</sup> Spiisbury asking him to be a witness for a man named Ward whom he was defending. Mr. Hutton was called upon for his defence, admitted writing the letter, so was asked to withdraw. Court held unanimously that Mr. Hutton's conduct in writing the above letter is improper

unprofessional & disgraceful to the Bar & resolved unanimously that Mr. Hutton be no longer considered as a member of the Society of the Midland Circuit.

Messrs. Newnham, Coke, Clarke, Willis, Ayscough, Bramston, & Morice presented for fishing in the Swan Pool at Lincoln together with one Payne, eating mutton chops broiled by 2 attorneys, & drinking divers large quantities of divers liquors, fishing with Johnson & Bell attorneys. 5/- each.

Mr. Reader for walking arm in arm with Mr. Goodwin an attorney at Derby.

## LINCOLN.

Mr. Galley presented by Mr. Wilmot for bigamy for that he being married by the newspapers to one Mrs. Butter hath been since married by report to one Miss Pickering, Mrs. Butter being still living. Mr. Galley is also presented for Trigamy for that he being twice married in manner aforesaid is also married to Mother Johnson by his own confession, his before mentioned wives being still alive.

## WARWICK.

Mr. Newnham presented for sleeping in the same bed with the puisne Judge throughout the whole Circuit 2/6

Mr. Wilmot & Mr. Coke presented for dining with the High Sheriff & 40 attorneys at Derby 2/6

Mr. Torkington presents himself for dancing with an attorneys daughter at Derby. 2/6

Messrs. Brough, Torkington, & Vaughan presented for conversing in the Playhouse at Derby with 2 ladies sisters to an attorneys Clerk. 2/6 each.

The Theatre at Derby was built in 1773. Before that time there was no regular theatrical building, but travelling companies performed in private rooms or in the barns of Inns. The back of the old George Inn was the principal site for these performances until the Theatre was built in Bold Lane.

Mr. Perkins congratulated on his marriage. 1 guā.

## WARWICK, 1794.

Mr. Reader bets Mr. Coke that Mr. Chas. James Fox is Recorder of Nottingham this day twelvemonth.

Mr. Stanton presented for refusing in a most positive manner to decant a bottle of Port after having been requested to it several times by the Recorder 2/6

## LINCOLN, 1795.

Mr. Perceval congratulated on being made Counsel to the Admiralty 1 guā.

Mr. Roe presented for his magnificent style travelling the Midland Circuit with 2 servants & 3 horses, a style calculated to excite envy, & enhance the expenses of other gentlemen.

## WARWICK, MAR. 1795.

Mr. Parker presented for the unworthy preference he gave to the Company of his host a baker at Derby to the Society of the Midland Circuit by drinking a bottle of wine with the said baker 2/6

Mr. Roe presented for going to Church at Leicester with two daughters of an attorney & flirting very indecently with the said daughters during the service, & afterwards dining with the father & s<sup>d</sup> daughters. 5/-

## NOTTINGHAM, JULY 24, 1795.

Mr. Newnham congratulated as being 1st Commissioner on the special Commission for trying the rioters of the Oxford Militia 1 guā.

Mr. Perceval congratulated on his silk gown. 1 guā.

## DERBY, JULY 1796.

Mr. Perceval congratulated on being M.P. for Northampton. 1 guā.

Mr. Sutton congratulated on being M.P. for Newark. 1 guā.

Mr. Vaughan presented for puffing himself in Court by his conduct at St. Albans, for having represented that he received high compliments from Lord Bingham on that occasion. 2/6

Mr. Balguy presented for having the Judges to dine with him at his house n<sup>r</sup> Derby. 2/6

John Balguy descended from an old Peak family was Recorder of Derby and afterwards a Judge of South Wales. He had a house at Duffield which he purchased from the Wilmots about 1791.

Mr. Roe presented for giving the waiter at Coventry where he dined 2 pence to the great discredit of the Circuit; also for presenting to the Recorder counterfeit coin knowing it to be bad in discharge of a debt to y<sup>e</sup> Circuit. 5/-

Messrs. Ayscough & Bramston presented for calling on an attorney's daughter at Sir Robt. Wilmots at Osmanton.

2/6 each



Mr. Romilly presented for saying the decisions of this Court were like Mr. Justice Grose's summing up, great stuff 2/6

Sir Samuel Romilly was a member of the Midland Circuit, and regularly attended the Assizes and Sessions. He was made a K.C. in 1800 and Solicitor General February 12th, 1806. He was distinguished as a great social reformer. He committed suicide by cutting his throat November 2nd, 1818, having become deranged by the death of his wife a few days before.

Mr. Coke congratulated on being made  
Treasurer of the County of Derby.

Daniel Parker Coke descended from the Reverend Thomas Coke, Rector of Trusly and younger brother of Robert Coke, Esquire, who died in 1713. He was head of his family, being eleventh in descent from Thomas Coke who married the heiress of Odingsells. His mother was heiress of Goodwin and his grandmother heiress of Willet, both of Derby. Mr. Coke was born July 17th, 1745; he was educated at All Souls College, Oxford, was called to the Bar and joined the Midland Circuit. He was M.P. for Derby from 1775 to 1780 and for Nottingham from 1780 to 1812. He acted for many years as Chairman of Derbyshire Quarter Sessions. He died December 6th, 1825 *at. 80*, and was buried in All Saints' Church, Derby, where there is a monument to his memory. At the general election in 1802 excitement in Nottingham was so great that Coke suffered personal violence and was obliged to leave the town.

Mr. Parke presented for absenting himself from the Judge's dinner at Warwick in order to dine with divers to wit 500 attorneys 1000 tailors 500 tinkers 100 knifegrinders & 1 glazier to wit Philip Putty. 2/6

Mr. Reader presented for gross huggery of y<sup>e</sup> Judge in saying he was not easily puzzled, whereas in truth & in fact y<sup>e</sup> sd Reader well knew that no Judge was sooner puzzled. 2/6

NOTTINGHAM MAR. 13, 1798.

Mr. Roe presented for tampering with a witness *i.e.* having a criminal conversation with a dirty horrid wench who had been examined as a witness upon a felony at the Derby Xmas Sessions, & was strongly suspected of perjury & being party to the felony. Mr. Roe was found guilty of the same & thereupon he was asked to state to the Court what reward he gave to the girl. Mr. Roe replied 2/6 so he was fined the same amount.

Mr. Clarke presented for coming to the Assembly in Derby in a liver coloured coat 2/6

Mr. Roe presented for keeping the maid up all night & giving her nothing extra. 2/6

Mr. Roe presented for singing songs at an open window to attract attorneys 2/6

WARWICK AUG. 6 1798.

Mr. Serg<sup>t</sup> Vaughan presented for blushing in open Court at Lincoln with a view to persuade the attorneys then present that he was a modest & decent man whereas the s<sup>d</sup> Vaughan has neither modesty nor decency. 2/6

Sir John Vaughan was the third son of Dr. James Vaughan of Leicester. He was educated at Rugby and Queens' College, Oxford. Called to the Bar in 1791 he joined the Midland Circuit and in 1798 was made Recorder of Leicester. He became Sergeant at Law in 1799 and in 1827 was made a Baron of the Exchequer. He died September 25th, 1839.

Mr. Beauclerk congratulated on being made a Captain Notts yeomanry.

The whole Circuit presented for driving with the 2 Marshals at Mr. Cokes at Derby. N.G.

LEICESTER 21 MAR. 1799.

Mr. Gresley presented for appearing at the Assembly at Derby in a liver coloured coat. 2/6

Mr. Roe presented for dancing with Mrs. Lockett at Derby she being wife of an attorney 2/6

The Locketts were a well-known family in Derby. Six generations are given in a pedigree in Glover's *History*—the Lockett mentioned above was William Jeffrey

Lockett, Clerk of the Peace for the County of Derby, born 16th December, 1768.

Mr. Serg<sup>t</sup> Vaughan presented for going to Church at Derby as a Judge. 2/6

Mr. Simpson for asking Miss Bilbie to dance at Derby she being sister in law to an attorney 2/6

Miss Bilbie was a noted belle at the Assembly Balls at Derby. There are numerous entries in the Records of fines inflicted for dancing with this lady, but without any deterrent effect. She was sister-in-law to Mr. Lockett the Clerk of the Crown, who was a solicitor.

Mr. Hartley presented for damning the Records & wishing they be burnt 2/6

DERBY, JULY 13, 1800.

Mr. Balguy presented for hugging the Judge in Court at Derby by saying " His Lordship has stated correctly as he always does." 2/6

Mr. Perceval presents the whole Circuit for that he and they hugged a Judge by dining with him at Lord Brownlows 2/6 each

Mr. Gresley congratulated on appointment as 1st Lieut Lord Aylesford's yeomanry. 1 guā.

The Recorder presented for going to the Assembly Ball at Derby in a black coat, white waistcoat nankeen breeches & white stockings 2/6

Mr. Reader presented for shaking hands with Mr. Upton an attorney in Court at Derby. 2/6

LINCOLN 2<sup>d</sup> JULY 1800.

Mr. Serg<sup>t</sup> Vaughan presented for hiring & engrossing to himself the whole of a house in Derby to the serious inconvenience of those gentlemen who might happen to be without lodgings 2/6

Mr. Gresley congratulated on his marriage 1 guā.

NORTHAMPTON 8<sup>h</sup> MAR. 1801.

The following letter was written by the Recorder to Mr. Perceval by order of the Court—

Dear Sir,

I beg leave in the names of all the members of the Midland Circuit most cordially to congratulate you upon being appointed Solicitor General to H.M. an appointment which as

it has universally afforded the highest satisfaction, must be in a particular manner grateful to those who from habits of long intimacy with you are in some measure qualified to judge of the wisdom which has been exercised in the disposal of that honourable office. I purposely forbear entering into any detail of their sentiments upon this subject lest on the one hand I fail in giving an adequate expression of the warmth of their feelings, or on the other hand incur the hazard of offending your delicacy by repeating the language of approbation & applause. I must however observe that their joy upon this occasion has not been unattended with a mixture of regret, nor has it made them forgetful of the heavy loss which the Circuit has sustained by the departure of a member who has for so many years contributed to their happiness & most devotedly occupied a high place in the esteem & affection of every individual.

I have the honour to be, dear Sir,

Your most obedient & humble servant,

CHRISTOPHER SMITH, Recorder.

To the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Spencer Perceval.

To this Mr. Perceval sent the following reply—

Dear Sir,

Permit me to request that you will have the goodness to present my best thanks to the Midland Circuit for the very flattering mark of their good opinion conveyed to me by your letter of congratulation upon my late appointment as Sol<sup>r</sup> General to H.M. It was impossible that I should fail to be extremely gratified by receiving so strong a testimony of the approbation & esteem of so respectable a body of men ; & I beg you will assure them that I am truly sensible not only of this last mark of their attention but of the kindness which I have uniformly & constantly experienced from every individual of your Circuit. To yourself, Sir, I cannot forbear to add that the very handsome manner in which you have been pleased to convey their congratulations has by showing your own satisfaction in conveying them contributed very much to increase the pleasure which I received from them.

As for the formal consequence of the congratulations in which I am of course to be an actor I beg you will call upon either Mr. Bramston or Mr. Morice whom I have for various purposes & at different places requested to be my pay-masters to pay into the Circuit fund the 5 or 10 guās or any

other sum which the Circuit may be induced to assess my congratulatory payment.

Wishing, Sir, to be recollected at least on one day upon the Circuit I had previous to the receipt of your letter directed 3 dozen of Claret to be sent down to the Warwick Arms at Warwick for the Recorder of the Midland Circuit, & I directed that it should be sent off to-day in order to ensure its arrival in time. I trust you will use your endeavour to prevail upon the Circuit to take in good part this very trifling memorial from an old companion who can only plead the intimacy of former habits to justify the presumption of sending them such a trifle.

With every wish of happiness for you, Sir, in particular & prosperity to the Circuit in general

I remain, Dear Sir, their & yours

Faithful & obedient servant,

SPENCER PERCEVAL.

The Right Honourable Spencer Perceval was the son of John Perceval, Earl of Egmont. He was born November 1, 1762, educated at Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge. When called to the Bar he joined the Midland Circuit. Romilly in his memoirs describes him as a man "with very little reading, of a conversation barren of instruction, and with strong and invincible prejudices on many subjects; yet by his excellent temper his engaging manner and his sprightly conversation he was the delight of all who knew him." In 1796 he became a K.C. and M.P. and subsequently Solicitor General. In 1802 he was promoted to be Attorney General, became Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1807 and finally Prime Minister in 1809. He was assassinated when entering the House of Commons on May 11th, 1812.

LEICESTER 19 MAR. 1801.

|                                                                                                              |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Mr. Serg <sup>t</sup> Vaughan leader of Circuit                                                              | 5/-      |
| Mr. Bramston, Mr. D'Ewes Coke, & Mr. Beauclerk presented for dancing with Miss Bilbie at Derby               | 2/6 each |
| Mr. Beauclerk presented for acting as coachman to Judge Vaughan by driving his gig from Nottingham to Derby, | 2/6      |
| Mr. Gresly congratulated on having a son & heir                                                              | 1 guā.   |
| Mr. D Ewes Coke congratulated on having a daughter                                                           | 1 guā.   |

## WARWICK MAR. 23, 1801.

Mr. Serg<sup>t</sup> Vaughan presented for throwing dirt at y<sup>e</sup> Judge by saying of him " I know his enlightened mind too well."

Mr. Serg<sup>t</sup> Vaughan presented for saying of the Recorder to Mr. Clarke who was speaking of his conduct " Damn him he always has a pen under his ear "

2/6

Mr. Morice presented for insulting the dignity of the Circuit Court by appearing therein in a blue coat & scarlet waist-coat

2/6

## LINCOLN JLY 1801.

Mr. Morice presented for not wearing a pair of mackerel coloured silk stockings at the Circuit Court with intent to defraud the Court, he having worn them the day preceding & that very morning

2/6

## NOTTINGHAM JLY 23, 1801.

Mr. White presented for being at Northampton, Oakham Lincoln & Nottingham without a servant

10/6

Mr. Arabin for the same offence

10/6

Mr. Arabin presented for saying " When the Recorder is asleep I will enter on my defence " the s<sup>d</sup> Recorder being supposed never to sleep

2/6

Mr. D Ewes Coke moved that from henceforth whosoever shall bring a silver fork shall pay a congratulatory fee of 1 guā.

In 1801 the number of members on the Circuit was 26, in 1802, 34.

## WARWICK MAR. 1802.

Mr. Morice presented for wearing a brown coat & gilt buttons

2/6

Mr. Morice moved that Sherry or Madeira be provided from Circuit funds. Agreed.

## NOTTS AUG 6, 1802.

Moved. That a Committee be appointed to arrange the modes of laying in wines, &c.

Wine fund. Instead of 3 guās per Circuit 1 guā for each place the member attends & a grant of £10 for Northampton, & £15 for Lincoln, & £10 for Leicester be paid out of the Circuit funds.

Mr. Dayrell congratulated on his appointment as a Bencher of Lincolns Inn.

1 guā.

Mr. Morice & Mr. Hartley condoled with on being presented to the 1st Consul of France

2 gs.

The Recorder bets a bottle wt Mr. Dewes Coke that Capt. Lumley did not die a natural death.

WARWICK MAR 25, 1803.

Mr. Serg<sup>t</sup> Vaughan presented for endeavouring to forestall the market at Leicester by riding out on the Commission morning along divers to wit all the turnpike roads leading to & from Leicester to meet divers to wit 100 attorneys on the way to Assizes in order to intercept them in their way

2/6

Messrs. Dugdale, Parker, & Greenaway condoled with upon the breaking down at Quarndon on their way to Leicester

2/6 each

Mr. Balguy presented for endeavouring to defraud the Court by proposing Mr. Carter an attorney as a proper person as a referee in two Causes at Leicester & in speaking of him to the Judge got as far as he dared & then stopped with a-hem, evidently to avoid saying anything presentable

2/6

Mr. Lloyd presented for saying that it was 5 to 1 against any accused person that got up to speak in Circuit Court, thereby meaning that it was a partial and unjust tribunal

2/6

Mr. Fletcher presented for saying that the Circuit Court was damned nonsense

2/6

DERBY 1 AUG. 1803.

Mr. Rough, Mr. Clarke, & Mr. Reader are congratulated on their escape on the breaking down of their chaise n<sup>r</sup> Newark.

Mr. Bramston, Mr. Torkington, Mr. Gresley & Mr. Beauclerk & Mr. Hudson presented for dining with the Judges at Sir Chas. Hudsons

2/6 each

LEICESTER MAR 22 1804.

Mr. Serg<sup>t</sup> Vaughan presented for discouraging law suits by saying to a witness " You choose to pay rather than have a law suit you are a very nice man "

2/6

Mr. Rough for appearing at Derby Assembly in a magpie dress.

William Rough, only son of William Rough, was born in 1772; educated at Westminster and Trinity College, Cambridge; called to the Bar by Inner Temple 1st June, 1801; joined the Midland Circuit, became Sergeant at Law 30th May, 1808. He married an illegitimate daughter of John Wilkes. In April, 1816, he was made President of the Courts of Justice of Demerara and Essequibo,

where he served for five years. He was suspended by the Governor, Lieutenant-General Murray, but appealed successfully to the Privy Council. He did not, however, receive another post until 1830, when he was made a Puisne Judge in Ceylon and promoted to be Chief Justice in that island 1836 and was knighted in 1837. He died in that office 19th May, 1838. He had four children by his wife who died in Demerara.

Mr. Gresley presented for appearing at the Assembly in Derby in a harlequin dress. 2/6

Mr. Fletcher & Mr. Perkins presented for furiously attacking Mr. Hartley & Mr. Dewes Coke on Gallows Hill (they Mr. F. & Mr. P. being drunk) & breaking the spur of the postboy 2/6 each

Mr. Hartley & Mr. Dewes Coke presented for that they with a most diabolical mind did hire a leader for their buggy with intent the buggy of the s<sup>d</sup> Mr. Perkins to destroy, Mr. Perkins & Mr. Fletcher being therein, who at the risk of their lives did escape from Gallows Hill

Mr. Torkington & Mr. Morice presented for having brought the Circuit into disgrace for having gone as far as the door of the Assembly Rooms at Derby & upon hearing that the price of admission was 7/- having refused to pay that sum 2/6

Mr. Sawbridge congratulated on his escape his horse having fallen down between Derby & Loughborough 2/6

Mr. Hudson & the Recorder congratulated on their escape at the breaking down of their whisky n<sup>r</sup> Leicester 2/6 each

WARWICK MAR 26, 1804.

Mr. Hudson presented for dancing with Miss Bilbie at Derby 2/6

LEICESTER JULY 25, 1804.

Mr. Serg<sup>t</sup> Vaughan presented for saying in open Court at Derby of one Upton an attorney that he was a highly respectable man as you (the Jury) all know. 2/6

Mr. Dewes Coke & Mr. Clarke presented for playing cards with one Lockett an attorney at Derby Assembly 2/6 each

Mr. Copley & Mr. Rough presented for dancing with Miss Harrison daughter of an attorney at Derby 2/6 each



John Singleton Copley was born at Boston, U.S.A., 21st May, 1772. After some years spent in travel he finished his education at Trinity College, Cambridge. He was called to the Bar in 1804 and joined the Midland Circuit. His great abilities were soon recognized by his brethren at the Bar ; he worked hard and was assiduous in attendance at the Courts so his rise was rapid. He became a Sergeant at Law in 1813 and M.P. in 1818. In 1819 he became King's Sergeant and also Chief Justice of Chester ; in the same year he was made Solicitor General and promoted to Attorney General in 1824. In 1826 he was appointed Master of the Rolls and finally became Lord Chancellor, and was raised to the Peerage as Lord Lyndhurst.

Mr. Copley presented for using the following words " Why should we spoil the conviviality of the meeting by holding such a damned stupid thing as a Circuit Court " 2/6

Mr. Greenaway presented for the ostentatious display of his person in the gallery of the Court at Warwick 2/6

WARWICK MAY 17<sup>th</sup> 1805.

Mr. Reader presented for an illicit attempt to win the affections of one Bolton an attorney at Derby by proclaiming in the public Court of that place with a loud voice & in a manner truly emphatic that the s<sup>d</sup> Bolton was as respectable a man as any in the world 2/6

NOTTINGHAM S.C. 1805.

Mr. Guest presented for being seen in the Court at Leicester in a blue coat with double gilt Birmingham buttons 2/6

Mr. Clarke presented for puffing himself in y<sup>e</sup> public Court at Warwick in the following indecent & scandalous terms " I believe I do cut a good figure in my regimentals & I believe the learned Sergreant is convinced of it " 2/6

WARWICK MAR. 25 1806.

Messrs. Lloyd, Reynolds, Copley, & Rough presented for dining at Mr. Strutts with one Edwards an attorney at Derby 2/6 each

The family of Edwards was well-known in Derby. There is a pedigree in Glover's *History* of eight generations. Nathaniel Edwards an attorney in Derby was

born October 8th, 1768, and died 14th January, 1814. He married Salona daughter of Alex. Cuthberton and had a son William Edwards also an attorney in Derby who married Marianne daughter of Emanuel Allen.

Mr. Lloyd presented for dancing with an attorneys daughter at Derby 2/6

Mr. Reynolds & the Recorder presented for dancing with Miss Bilbie at Derby 2/6 each

NOTTINGHAM MAR 13, 1807.

It was recorded that from that time no further sum than 2 guās should be paid for lodgings at any place except Warwick.

Mr. Balguy junior presented for being refreshed in open Court at Lincoln by barley sugar drops commonly called Kisses by one Tennant an attorney 2/6

Mr. Balguy S<sup>nr</sup> presented for having said in a crowded Court at Lincoln of L.C.J. Ellenborough that he is sure his Lordship would direct the Jury with the greatest propriety, thereby most wickedly hugging the C.J. & thereby causing the s<sup>d</sup> C.J. in justice to himself as well as Mr. B. to declare of him the s<sup>d</sup> Balguy "that nobody was more correct, that if anybody could do it he Mr. Balguy could, that such was his the C.J.'s opinion of Mr. Balguys judgment that he w<sup>d</sup> listen to him with the greatest attention 2/6

Mr. Copley presented for dancing with the daughter of one Bower an attorney at Derby 2/6

Mr. Copley presented for dancing with sister in law of Wilson an attorney at Derby 2/6

Mr. Balguy presented for feeding one Lockett an attorney in open Court at Derby with a crisp round well baked fresh biscuit 2/6

Mr. Reynolds condoled with upon receiving a severe fall in rolling the garden of one Edwards an attorney at Derby 2/6

Mr. Copley presented for saying of Mr. Rough in open Court at Derby in the hearing of divers to wit 50,000 attorneys that he Mr. Rough was an idiot intending thereby to injure the interests of the s<sup>d</sup> Mr. Rough in the s<sup>d</sup> Court of Derby, the s<sup>d</sup> Mr. Copley going the Derby Sessions & wickedly desiring to supplant every barrister particularly the s<sup>d</sup> Mr. Rough's success in the s<sup>d</sup> place. N.B. Mr. Copley admits the words but denied criminal intent.

Mr. Clarke presented for furnishing one Brittlebank an attorney with a pen in open Court at Derby with the intent to insinuate himself into the esteem & good graces of the sd attorney 2/6

WARWICK 28<sup>th</sup> MARCH 1807.

Mr. Holbeck moved that 6<sup>d</sup> should be paid by each person every day instead of every other day. Agreed.

Mr. Balguy congratulated on being made a Welsh Judge. 1 guā.

Mr. Rough & Mr. Copley presented for making a special visit to one Edwards an attorney at Derby before the commission day for the purpose of advising upon evidence without their senior was irregular.

Mr. Denman presented for puffing himself as a portrait painter by making drawings in open Court at Warwick in view of divers attorneys. The evidence of this offence is lost having been destroyed wilfully by the offender. N.G.

Thomas Denman son of Dr. Denman of Stoney Middleton was born 1779, called to the Bar 9<sup>th</sup> May, 1806, and joined the Midland Circuit. He was M.P. for Wareham in 1818. With Brougham and Lushington he defended Queen Caroline in her celebrated trial, which made him hateful to the King and hindered his promotion. However, in 1830 he was made Attorney General and in 1832 Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench. He was raised to the Peerage as Lord Denman in 1834 and died in 1854.

Mr. Serg<sup>t</sup> Rough congratulated on taking the coif 1 guā.

Mr. Clarke on his K.C. 1 guā.

Mr. Wilmot on his marriage 1 guā.

DERBY, AUG 2<sup>nd</sup> 1808.

Mr. Balguy S<sup>nr</sup> for arraying himself in party coloured silks in open Court at Nottingham to attract a jolly-faced attorney sitting opposite to him & aping one of Lady Hamilton's attitudes 2/6

Messrs. Clarke, Serg<sup>t</sup> Vaughan, Serg<sup>t</sup> Rough, Balguy, Coke, Reader, & Copley presented for puffing themselves in a Derby paper as counsel in the great case Ward v. Strutt 2/6

Messrs. Hudson & Holbeck condoled with for losing their way and being benighted on the road to Matlock 2/6 each

- Messrs. Phillips & Balguy J<sup>nr</sup> for throwing themselves at the feet of two ladies in the ball room at Derby 2/6 each
- Mr. Birch congratulated on being esteemed the flogger of the Assembly Rooms, Derby 2/6
- Mr. Newton presented for dancing with Miss Balguy sister of an attorney at Derby. 2/6
- Mr. Dewes Coke presented for feeding one Wilson an attorney with sandwiches in open Court at Derby 2/6
- Mr. Reynolds presented for saying Damn old Grose he is worse than the Circuit Court 2/6
- Mr. Balguy presented for receiving the following puff from Judge Grose. Mr. Balguy said I think there is no evidence to trouble your Lordship with, & s<sup>d</sup> Judge replied Balguy you are like yourself this morning 2/6
- Mr. Hudson congratulated upon his acquittal at Leicester Sessions on a charge of assaulting with divers others armed with clubs & sledgehammers &c. for the purpose of destroying the garden of one Hopkinson a shoemaker & also for holding a brief against himself in the cause of Pratt v. Hudson N.G.
- Mr. Balguy congratulated on his great popularity in the town of Nottingham being received on his entrance with bells ringing cannon firing flag waving & the populace shouting Long live Counsellor Bogie 2/6

WARWICK 30<sup>th</sup> MAR. 1809.

- Mr. Fletcher moved that the Circuit Court be abolished & the Records burnt. For 3. Against 14.
- The Recorder fined 1 guā for keeping the Records in disorder & not collecting fines
- Mr. Reynolds & Copley for riding on the mail to Oakham 5/-
- Mr. Copley presented for conducting a cause at Lincoln & leading & examining witness without a junior 3 guās.
- Mr. Torkington condoled with on the severe injury sustained by his wig from the foot of one Brackenbury an attorney who took a flying leap into Court in contempt of the s<sup>d</sup> Court; & on his great bodily fear from the peril in which the back part of his head was placed 2/6
- Mr. Serg<sup>t</sup> Rough & Mr. Denman presented for disgracing the Circuit by appearing at a dissenting meeting house in Derby 2/6 each
- Mr. D Ewes Coke condoled with on being posted up over the walls at Nottingham in the following opprobrious terms " Damn Judas Cook the informer " 2/6

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Mr. Reynolds presented for gross huggery of Miss Greenaway daughter of one Greenaway an attorney                                                                                                                      | 2/6    |
| Mr. Reader presented for shaking hands with Mr. Tomes & kissing little Miss Tomes                                                                                                                                     | 5/-    |
| Mr. Balguy J <sup>nr</sup> presented for saying " The decisions of the Circuit Court upon the subject of appearing in coloured clothes at a ball is absurd, foul quackery & infernal nonsense "                       | 2/6    |
| Mr. Serg <sup>t</sup> Vaughan presented for gross indecency in charging Mr. Copley with squeezing a young lady in a box & consigning her to an infamy that would make it impossible for her to live in decent company | 2/6    |
| Mr. Copley presented for saying that the Recorder looked like a kangaroo                                                                                                                                              | 2/6    |
| The Recorder presented for gross profanity in damning Leviticus.                                                                                                                                                      | 2/6    |
| Mr. Sawbridge condoled with on the bursting of his breeches at supper at Derby.                                                                                                                                       | 2/6    |
| Mr. Beauclerk congratulated on being made Recorder of Northampton                                                                                                                                                     | 1 guā. |

The Fines collected on Circuit were considerable. On this Circuit they amounted to £28 19s. od.

NOTTINGHAM LENT, 1812.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                 |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Mr. Serg <sup>t</sup> Rough presented for paying 4½ guās. at Lincoln for lodgings Fined 2 bottles of Claret, paid into Court                                                                    |           |
| Mr. Balguy presented for feeding one Swettenham an attorney with the Under Sheriffs sandwiches in Court at Derby                                                                                | 2/6       |
| Mr. Balguy presented for saying of the Circuit Court " You are a set of damned pickpocket fellows "                                                                                             | 2/6       |
| Mr. Reader presented for puffing himself in open Court at Lincoln as a man of moral habits towards women by saying to Catherine Cunningham Come, you & I will not have much flirtation together | 2/6       |
| Mr. Copley presented for endeavouring to cuckold the husband of the s <sup>d</sup> Catherine by pawing squeezing & kissing the s <sup>d</sup> Catherine in open Court at Lincoln                | 2/6       |
| At Lincoln Mr. Copley bets Mr. Reader that Buonaparte will be alive at the end of the year                                                                                                      |           |
| Mr. Reynolds & Mr. Shuttleworth presented for riotously attempting the rescue of sheepstealers in Court at Derby                                                                                | 2/6 each. |

JULY 26 1813.

Mr. Copley congratulated on being made a Serg<sup>t</sup> 1 guā.

WARWICK SPRING C. 1814.

Mr. Hone presented for conduct unbecoming as a barrister in giving his professional assistance at a sale of lands by public Auction at Ashby-de-la-Zouch on or about August last

LEICESTER AUG 4, 1814.

The Court considering Mr. Hone's case are unanimously of opinion that his conduct throughout has been highly unprofessional & unbecoming. Mr. Clarke by desire of this Court informed Mr. Hone of this resolution. Mr. Hone begged to thank the Court for the mildness of its decision, saying he had expected something more severe, & that in future he should be careful that his conduct should not give offence to the Court

Mr. Reynolds presented for degrading the Crown Court at Warwick into a hospital & for endeavouring to attract all the pity of the ladies in Court by swallowing a mixture of chalk & water from a phial in Court 2/6

Mr. Denman congratulated on being attended by his wife to Northampton & condoled with on her departure from thence 2/6

Mr. Reynolds presented for appearing drunk in Court at Lincoln with a flowing tail like a Flanders mare & other indecent exhibitions 2/6

Mr. Moore for appearing as the sleeping beauty in open Court at Derby 2/6

Mr. Holbeck & the Recorder are congratulated & thanked for supporting the dignity of the Bar by getting drunk at the Innskillens Mess at Nottingham N.G.

Mr. Marriott & Mr. Adams presented for degrading the Circuit by making an excursion from Nottingham in Mr. Adams gig followed by a servant on a donkey 2/6

NORTHAMPTON MAR. 6, 1815.

Resolved. The several wine funds be thrown together. Every barrister on joining to pay 3 guās to wine fund & 1 guā for each assize town he attended: Wine to be 4/- a bottle.

NOTTINGHAM.

Mr. Marriott presented for walking about the ball room at Derby with Miss Bilbie sister in law to one Lockett an attorney & having her arm locked in his the whole night, reposing on a sofa and practising every mode of contiguity that was practicable in so public a place 2/6

Mr. Finch & Mr. Adams congratulated on the liberal offer of the Sheriffs lady at Derby she having desired the Judge to inform them that they were welcome to take off their five daughters, & condole with them on their want of bottom in not having taken off even one of the s<sup>d</sup> ladies though they were young beautiful rich & excellent dancers 2/6 each  
 Mr. Adams & Mr. Finch congratulated on being described by one of the Miss Peels as most delightful men & most enchanting poets 2/6 each

The members attending the Midland Circuit during the Summer Circuit, 1816, were—

|                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Sergeant Vaughan    | Mr. Clarke, K.C.         |
| Sergeant Copley     | Mr. Reader, K.C.         |
| Beauclerk           | Reynolds                 |
| Holbeck             | Denman                   |
| Phillips            | Balguy                   |
| Marriott            | Dwarris                  |
| N. Clarke           | Adams                    |
| Franklin            | Moore                    |
| Cust                | Hon <sup>ble</sup> Finch |
| Goulbourn, Recorder |                          |

Edward Goulbourn, born in 1787, was a son of Munbee Goulbourn of Amity Hall, Jamaica, by his wife Susanna eldest daughter of William, 4th Viscount Chetwynd. He became a cornet in the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards in 1803 and Lieutenant in 1804. He published the *Blueviad*, a satirical poem about his brother officers, for which he was prosecuted and consequently left the Army. He was called to the Bar in 1815 and joined the Midland Circuit. He subsequently became Recorder of Leicester, a Welsh Judge and Sergeant at Law. He sat as the M.P. for Leicester from 1835 to 1837 and was appointed a Commissioner in Bankruptcy. Oxford made him an Hon. D.C.L. in 1845; he died 1868.

#### DERBY.

Mr. Finch presented for unkindness to the Circuit in not presenting them with some of the delicious Dovedale trout 2/6

Serg<sup>t</sup> Vaughan presented for professing great modesty & simplicity in the marriage cause at Derby " I shall state to you the case with the modesty & simplicity congenial to the character of the lady " 2/6

WARWICK AUG 28<sup>th</sup> 1816.

Mr. Balguy & Mr. Finch condoled with on the following paragraph in a Leicester paper " Two professional gentlemen attending the Assizes at Derby having sacrificed too liberally to the God of Wine were consigned to the Watch house till they became cool enough to walk quietly in the streets " 2/6 ea.

NORTHAMPTON SPRING C. 1817.

Mr. Finch presented for gross misconduct in clandestinely occupying a bed at the Inn at Uppingham out of his turn, & congratulated him on being on such excellent terms with the chambermaid 2/6

The Fines levied during the Spring Circuit amounted to £42 5s. od., a notable addition to the wine fund.

Mr. Reader presented for puffing himself in Rex v. Woodward at Leicester as an astronomer & lunatic " Its different with different moons my Lord, I know it I have paid great attention to that subject " 2/6

The Fines during the Spring Circuit 1818 amounted to £44 8s. od.

LEICESTER AUG 1 1817.

Mr. Reynolds presented for endeavouring to excite sympathy in the hearts of the pretty maids at Derby by contriving to have his carriage break down exactly opposite the great door of the great Church at the moment the female part of the Congregation were coming out 2/6

Members attending the Circuit in 1818 were—

|                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Serg <sup>t</sup> Vaughan | (King's Sergeant)         |
| Clarke K.C.               | Serg <sup>t</sup> Copley  |
| Holbeck                   | Reader K.C.               |
| Balguy                    | Reynolds                  |
| Phillips                  | Denman                    |
| Adams                     | G. Marriott               |
| Dwarris                   | N. R. Clarke              |
| Finch                     | Moore                     |
| Goulbourn                 | Lloyd Williams, Recorder. |



Sir Fortunatus William Lilley Dwarris was born in Jamaica in 1786, eldest son of William Dwarris of Pl<sup>n</sup> Golden Grove, Jamaica, by Sarah daughter of William Smith of Southam, Warwickshire. Dwarris was educated at Rugby and University College, Oxford, called to the Bar June, 1811, and joined the Midland Circuit. In 1822 he was appointed a Commissioner to enquire into the practice of the Laws in the West Indies, and was knighted in 1838. He was a master of the Queen's Bench, Recorder of Newcastle-under-Lyme, and a bencher of the Middle Temple. He was a voluminous writer; to the *Archæological Journal* he contributed articles "On the local Laws Courts and Customs of Derbyshire," "The Forest Laws Courts and Customs of the Chief Justice in Eyre N. and S. of the Trent."

The Honourable Mr. Finch was a son of the Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham.

AUTUMN SESSION 1818.

Serg<sup>t</sup> Copley congratulated on his election as M.P. for G<sup>t</sup> Yarmouth 1 guā.

Mr. Denman congratulated on his election as M.P. for Wareham 1 guā.

WARWICK MAR 31<sup>st</sup> 19.

Mr. Adams having reported that he had received 2 hampers containing 3 dozen of sparkling Champagne which he believed were sent by order of Mr. Serg<sup>t</sup> Copley for the use of the Circuit, the Recorder was instructed to send thanks for the same.

AUG 10 1819.

The Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench, Sir Charles Abbott, Lord Chief Baron Richards attended the feast given by the Midland Circuit this day at Warwick, Serg<sup>t</sup> Vaughan in the chair, & they all three declared they should consider it the highest honour of their lives if their names were embalmed in the Records of the Midland Circuit which is hereby done accordingly in memory of the same.

WILLIAM EMPSON, Recorder

William Empson was educated at Winchester and Trinity College, Cambridge. He was a regular contributor to the *Edinburgh Review* for many years, and at last became Editor of that great magazine in 1847 upon the death of Macvey Napier. He was also Professor of the General Polity of the Law of England at Haileybury. He died in 1852.

In 1817 an important trial took place at Derby when Brandreth, Ludlam, Turner and others were arraigned on a charge of High Treason.

The Judges were—

Sir Richard Richards, Chief Baron of the Exchequer.

Sir Robert Dallas, Judge Common Pleas.

Sir Charles Abbot, Judge Common Pleas.

Sir Charles Sowly Holroyd, Judge King's Bench.

The Counsel for the prosecution were the Attorney General, the Solicitor General, Sergeant Vaughan, Sergeant Copley, Clarke, Gurney, Reader, Reynolds, Richardson and Balguy Junior.

For the defence, Cross and Denman.