

## V.—JUDGES OF ASSIZE AT NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

By C. H. HUNTER BLAIR.

[Read on 25th November 1942.]

The Public Library of Newcastle upon Tyne has recently purchased a manuscript volume entitled—*Bertram Mitford, esqr., sheriff, Peregrine George Ellison, gentleman, under-sheriff, 1835. John Blake, Gaoler, 1835.*

The volume contains the names of the bailiffs of the county of Northumberland; those of ninety-eight grand jurors and seventy-two common jurors summoned for the Spring assizes of the county for the year 1835. There is also a list of the prisoners and convicts for the same date, with a note of the crimes for which they were to be tried and the sentences passed upon them. These lists are written in a clear clerkly hand and are apparently an official copy made for the sheriff's use.<sup>1</sup> This is followed by an account of the forms to be used and the ceremonies to be observed before and at the arrival and during the stay of the judges for the above named assizes. This part appears to be written by Bertram Mitford himself, as a daily record for his private satisfaction. The volume also contains similar particulars for the Summer assizes 1845 when Ralph Carr was sheriff and a shorter account of the Spring assizes 1846.

Little is known about assizes held for Northumberland by the king's justices itinerant before the thirteenth cen-

<sup>1</sup> A copy of these is also in John Bell's Commonplace Book now belonging to Mr. J. S. Mitcalfe.

ture; they took place only at long and irregular intervals, but with the accession of Henry III (1216) they were held more regularly and the procedure became more settled.<sup>2</sup> On November 3rd, 1218, the sheriff of Northumberland was ordered by the king's writ "to be attendant upon" the king's justices itinerant, Richard (Marsh) bishop of Durham, Robert Vipont, Martin Pateshull, William son of Richard and Roger Huscarl (*justiciarii nostri itinerantes*). He is ordered to be attendant upon them "both on the day and in the place which they will let you know and you shall cause your company to come according as they shall command you."<sup>3</sup> His "company" would include the knights, gentlemen and freeholders of the county together with the coroners and bailiffs, whom we know were accustomed in later years to accompany the sheriff in procession to the appointed meeting place—hence called Sheriff Hill. That this was the meeting place from early times is shown when, in 1279, the jurors presented that the king of Scots, the archbishop of York, the prior of Tynmouth, the bishop of Durham and Gilbert of Umfreville, or their bailiffs, all holders of special franchises, ought to go *ad capud villae de Gatesheved ad quendam fontem qui vocatur Chille* and there plead their liberties before the king's justices; if they came from York, but if they came from Cumberland they were to meet at Fourstones.<sup>4</sup> Newcastle upon Tyne formed part of the county of Northumberland until 1400, when it was made into a county with a sheriff of its own. Thenceforward the town sheriffs shared attendance upon the judges with the county sheriffs. What this attendance meant is told in Bertram Mitford's manuscript volume.

"Of late years the Governors of the Newcastle Infirmary<sup>5</sup> dine on this day at the Turk's Head Inn (43 dined this year) and the sheriff and undersheriff dine there, the former sitting on the right hand of the senior steward (Henry Bell esq.) at the head of the table

<sup>2</sup> Surtees Socy. Publs., no. 88, p. ix.

<sup>3</sup> Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1216-25, p. 206.

<sup>4</sup> Surtees Socy. Publs., no. 88, p. 358.

<sup>5</sup> Opened 8 October 1752.

and the undersheriff on the right hand of the steward (Hedley Vicars esq.) who sits at the foot of the table. The dinner is at two o'clock and the company rise about four and accompany the sheriff to the place mentioned in his invitation card (The Moot Hall). The procession is as follows:

Bailiffs two and two.

Bailiff errant in the sheriff's livery.

Two trumpeters in the sheriff's livery, with banners bearing the sheriff's arms attached to their trumpets.

The Gaoler with a black rod.<sup>6</sup>

The undersheriff with a white rod and sword.

The high sheriff with a white rod and sword.

Then all the gentlemen who choose to attend 2 and 2.

" At the Moot Hall two tables are set out covered with green cloth and supplied with biscuits, wine and punch. The High Sheriff sits at the head of the first table and the undersheriff at the foot. The undersheriff must be very attentive to the time the Judges have fixed to be at Sheriff Hill and the High Sheriff must proceed from the Moot Hall so as to be there before the Judges. This year the procession went from the Moot Hall about five o'clock in the evening past the S.W. side of the old castle along Bailiff Gate into the narrow part of Westgate Street along Collingwood Street, Mosley Street down Dean Street along the bottom of the Side across the Bridge and so forwards to Sheriff Hill in the following order (plate xi):

Bailiffs 2 & 2 with their rods.

Two trumpeters with Banners, Ribands etc.

Gaoler with his black rod.

Undersheriff with his sword and white rod.

High Sheriff with his sword and white rod etc.

Two pages holding his stirrups.

Gentlemen and yeomen servants.

(all the above on horseback)

High Sheriff's coach with 6 horses, followed by his livery servants.

The mayor's coach and other carriages.

" This continues to the old Tolbooth<sup>7</sup> in Gateshead when the two pages quit the side of the High Sheriff and are placed behind

<sup>6</sup> *Wand* it is called here, but the earlier and more correct word is *rod*.

<sup>7</sup> This stood in the middle of High Street, opposite the end of Swinburne Street.

his coach. Many of the gentlemen and carriages quit the procession before it reaches Sheriff Hill. When the sheriff and attendants arrive there, they go into the house<sup>8</sup> where some wine and punch has been prepared by order of the sheriff. The sheriff and undersheriff wait the arrival of the Judges. The Judge's carriage draws up along side of the High Sheriff's coach when the sheriffs advance and pay their compliments to their lordships (Sir N. C. Tindal arrived alone at 7 o'clock, Lord Abinger being detained at Durham. His lordship arrived at the Mansion House privately about 11 o'clock). The Judges then step into the sheriff's coach and take their seats facing the horses, then the sheriffs step in and proceed to Newcastle. The sheriffs must observe these forms viz; to step into the coach after the Judges and step out before them and stand a little aside and always to sit with their backs to the horses. At the boundary stone<sup>9</sup> on Tyne bridge the sheriff of Newcastle, attended by his undersheriff and officers, meets the Judges. The coach stops there to allow the sheriff of Newcastle time to pay his compliments to the Judges and he then attended by his officers precedes the coach to the Guildhall of Newcastle where they are met by the Mayor, Recorder and Aldermen of Newcastle in their gowns. (John Lionel Hood mayor in 1835, John Mellor Chapman, sheriff, John Adamson undersheriff, George Hutton Wilkinson, recorder). The High Sheriff, undersheriff and Judges then step out of the coach and follow the mayor into the Newcastle court to open the Commission but as the High Sheriff has no business under this commission he and his undersheriff wait in the Mayor's Chamber until the Judges are ready to proceed to the County Courts which is done in the following order namely, Town Bailiffs, Town undersheriff, Town sheriff, County undersheriff, High Sheriff, Aldermen, Mayor with the Judges on each side. The High Sheriff, undersheriff and Judges then step into the carriage which has been waiting on the Sandhill, and preceded by the Bailiffs and trumpeters and attended by the pages go to the Moot Hall where the Commission is opened and the High Sheriff returns the Precepts to him directed by handing the same to the senior Judge when called upon by the Crier to do so. The court is then adjourned (this year to Monday morning 3rd August at eleven o'clock) and the Judges accompanied by the High Sheriff and undersheriff get into the coach and preceded by the bailiffs and trumpeters go to the Mansion House. When they arrive there the Judges are conducted by the High Sheriff and under-

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<sup>8</sup> The Old Cannon inn; there is a pump opposite it which may represent the Chille Well of 1279.

<sup>9</sup> The "blue stone," now in the Keep, which formerly marked the boundary on Tyne bridge between Newcastle and Gateshead.

sheriff to the door of the Mansion House where the Mayor meets them and the High Sheriff and undersheriff then leave them, unless the County sheriffs choose to sup with the Mayor which they are always invited to do and which they this year did. The High Sheriff during the entertainment at the Mansion House in the Assize week sits on the right hand of the senior Judge who sits on the right hand of the Mayor and the undersheriff sits on the right hand of the town sheriff at the foot of the table.

Sunday 3rd August 1835.

“ This morning at nine o'clock the county sheriffs in the High Sheriff's coach preceded by the Bailiffs and Trumpeters on foot with the pages on each side of the coach went down to the Mansion House and breakfasted there. About a quarter past ten o'clock the sheriffs as before conducted the two Judges to St. Nicholas church. The order of the procession from the Mansion House was as follows :

Serjeants at Mace.

Judges officers.

County Bailiffs.

The mayor and aldermen in the Mansion House coach.

The two Judges and Sheriffs in the High Sheriff's coach.

And then the other carriages in attendance.

“ Having arrived at the church door the procession to the Mansion House pew is as follows :

Water Bailiff.

Sword Bearer.

Town Sheriff.

High Sheriff.

Mayor with the Judges on each hand.

Recorder.

Aldermen.

“ (The judges, high sheriff, mayor, aldermen and undersheriffs received the Sacrament—Rev. John Davy Cade vicar of Aycliffe preached the sermon.) After the service the procession returned to the Mansion House in the same order.”

On the following Monday and Tuesday the judges were conducted to and from the Mansion House to the Moot Hall and Guild Hall by the county and town sheriffs respectively. On Wednesday Lord Abinger “ finished the

civil business at the Moot Hall at 12 noon and after being conducted back to the Mansion House left Newcastle for Belsay Castle." On Wednesday "at nine o'clock in the morning the sheriffs went to the Mansion House and took their leave of Sir N. C. Tindal previously to his setting off for Carlisle. The High Sheriff then delivered to the judge a list of persons qualified to succeed him" (Bertram Mitford), "eight names were on the list, the first upon it Thomas Riddell of Felton Park was named sheriff for the year 1836," and acted as sheriff at the Spring assizes of that year.

The second part of this manuscript volume contains a similar detailed account for the Summer assizes of 1845, and of the Spring assizes 1846 when Ralph Carr was high sheriff. The meeting still took place at Sheriff Hill but the judges were no longer lodged and entertained at the old Mansion House in the Close. That "noble house handsome furnished," built in 1691, was sold by auction with its entire contents in January 1837 and the judges were provided with "lodgings" in Eldon Square. The dinner given by the governors of the Infirmary to the sheriffs had been discontinued from 1844 and a luncheon was provided instead; the procession to the Moot Hall was also discontinued, "and at 12 o'clock the High Sheriff and 'under-sheriff with a few friends walked from the Turk's Head Inn to the Moot Hall to meet the judges at the usual place." For the Spring assizes of 1846 Mr. Justice Coleridge came by train from Carlisle. He was met at "the Forth station," which had just been completed, by "the sheriffs who had proceeded at 1.30 from the Queen's Head inn in a carriage attended by trumpeters and bailiffs to the Newcastle and Carlisle railway station, where the judge arrived about half-past two and was immediately conducted by the sheriffs to the Moot Hall. The procession by road, shorn of much of its former magnificence, was resumed for the Summer assizes of 1846 when the sheriff's retinue "consisted of two trumpeters on foot, six bailiffs with white

wands on foot; the carriage, which was a very beautiful one, was drawn by four horses and attended by two little sheriff's boys dressed after the time of Robin Hood, with blue feathers in their velvet hats, and two outriders and two of the Newcastle police on horseback, met the judges at the Cannon Inn." This was probably still the Old Cannon at Sheriff Hill, but after the Durham road by Low Fell was opened the meeting place was at the New Cannon in Low Fell.

The cost to the sheriff of the county, apart from that incurred by the town, of the customary feasting and pageantry was very heavy. Sir Thomas Swinburne, sheriff for 1628, kept a record of his expenditure for the assizes of that year, which has been printed in Hodgson's history.<sup>10</sup> He entertained two hundred gentlemen to dinner who went with him in procession to meet the judges and another two hundred on the following day when the judges dined with them. His total expenses for food (including seventeen stags and bucks), drink, music, livery coats<sup>11</sup> (*blew coats*), etc., came to the very large sum of £214 12s. 10d., equivalent to more than as many thousands at present-day values. The cost to the town was also considerable as the following extracts from the municipal accounts show.<sup>12</sup>

Aug. 1592: Paid to Mr. Wm. Greenwell sheriff for the charges of the Judges Banquett in the Pentas,<sup>13</sup> £3 16s. 10d.

Sept 1595: Paid for the charges of the Judges Banquett in the Pentas at Lambas, £4 7s. 2d.

Sept. 1651: Paid Mr. Maior which he disburst to entertain the Judges (though they came no further than Yorke this yeare) and for a present to the lord general Cromwell when he was at Stella, £60.

<sup>10</sup> *History of Northumberland*, III, i, pp. 358ff.

<sup>11</sup> Gloves are not mentioned, but in an account written in the early eighteenth century seventy-two pairs were provided—the Judges getting six pairs each, the remainder for officers and men. *N/C Proc.*<sup>3</sup> VII, 248.

<sup>12</sup> M. A. Richardson, *Rare Tracts*, vol. III, Hist.

<sup>13</sup> Penthouse. An upper room of the old Town House on the Sandhill.

- Sept. 1657: Paid Mr. Wm. Johnson for the entertainment of Judge Baron Parker and Judge Crooke with all their followers from 7 Aug. to 15 Aug., £22 4s. 9d.
- Aug. 1659: Paid Marke Milbanke, maior for the entertainment of Judge Baron Thorpe and Judge Baron Parker and all their followers from 11 Aug. to . . . Aug., £68.

Part of the entertainment, at least in the seventeenth century,<sup>14</sup> was a water picnic on the town barge down the river to North Shields. Roger North has drawn a very pleasant picture of one of these jaunts in his *Lives of the Norths*, when, in 1675, Sir Francis North, then Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, held the Autumn assizes in Newcastle.

“His lordship’s entertainment at Newcastle was very agreeable, because it went most upon the trades of the place, as coal-mines, salt works, and the like, with the wonders that belonged to them; and the magistrates were solicitous to give him all the diversion they could: and one was going to Tinmouth castle in the town barge.<sup>15</sup> The equipment of the vessel was very stately; for, a-head there sat a four or five drone bagpipe, the North-country organ, and the trumpeter astern; and so we rowed merrily along. (Plates XII and XIII.) The making salt I thought the best sight we had there. The other entertainment was a supper in the open air upon an island in the Tyne<sup>15a</sup> somewhat above the town; and all by the way of ligg and sit upon the ground; but provisions for a camp, and wine of all sorts, very fine. In short, all circumstances taken together, the cool of the evening, the verdant flat of the island with wood dispersed upon it, and the water curling about us, view of the hill on both sides of the river, the good appetites, best provisions, and a world of merry stories of the Scots (which by the way makes a great part of the wit in those parts), makes the place very agreeable, where every one walked after his fancy, and all were pleased.”<sup>16</sup>

<sup>14</sup> In 1635 10s. was paid the wherry-men for attending with the barge to carry the Judges to Sheeles (M. A. Richardson, *op. cit.*, III, p. 48).

<sup>15</sup> Plates XII and XIII, from pictures belonging to the Corporation of the city, illustrate the procession of boats with the town barge as it appeared on Ascension Day when the civic authorities went by river from Hedwin Streams to Spar Hawk to proclaim that the soil of the river wherever covered by water was within the town and county of Newcastle upon Tyne. This was last done in 1891 (see *Monthly Chronicle*, 1891, p. 275).

<sup>15a</sup> King’s Meadows, now dredged away. It lay opposite Elswick, and as the name implies was royal property. It was usually granted to the county sheriff with the custody of the castle.

<sup>16</sup> *Lives of the Norths*, by Hon. Roger North, I, 280, ed. 1826.



Reminiscent of a more famous picnic, in another barge, upon a greater river :

“ But now secure the painted Vessel glides,  
The Sun-beams trembling on the floating Tydes,  
While melting music steals upon the Sky,  
And softened sounds along the Waters die,  
Smooth flow the Waves, the Zephyrs gently play,  
Belinda smil'd and all the world was gay.”<sup>17</sup>

Spite of the heavy cost borne by the town, the expenses of the county sheriff were still very burdensome, and because of this, men, otherwise qualified, tried to evade their year of office. In February 1846, at a meeting of the gentlemen of the county, it was resolved “ that the expenses incidental to the office of sheriff were unnecessarily large and that a committee of such gentlemen as had themselves served the office should be appointed to consider and report in what manner and to what extent the same might be reduced.”<sup>18</sup> Sir Charles L. M. Monck was appointed chairman and the committee reported as follows :

“ Moot Hall 27th February, 1846.

“ Gentlemen—We, your committee met this morning according to your direction, and having considered the matter charged, are of opinion, that, since the establishment of railway conveyance up to Newcastle-upon-Tyne, the riding out by the sheriff on horseback, in state, to meet and receive the judges, might now be with full reason discontinued. Next, we are of opinion; that, since the judges in future will have to be received at the stations in the town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, four horses to the sheriffs coach would be sufficient equipment, and that the outriders hitherto used are also now unnecessary. Next, we are of opinion that the reception of the county in state at the Moot Hall by the sheriff, before he proceeds to meet the judges, is become, if the riding out should be discontinued unnecessary. Further, we think, that, as the assize fees to the judges, and complimentary fees to their servants, are of the ancient practise, whether originally right or not, but as the salaries of the judges have been lately much increased, it is now, we are of opinion,

<sup>17</sup> *Rape of the Lock*, canto II, 47-52.

<sup>18</sup> *Newcastle Courant*.

become fair to enquire into the origin and nature of those fees, with a view to their abolition. On this head, we are of opinion that the complimentary payments to the judges' servants namely, fee for gloves, opening courts, train bearer, butler, coachman, porter, and further the allowance for lodgings to the judges' servants ought to be discontinued. Lastly, we are of opinion that the pages attendant personally upon the sheriff ought to be discontinued.

“ CHAS. L. M. MONCK, Chairman.

“ To the meeting of the gentlemen of the county of Northumberland held in the Moot Hall of the county, at the Castle of Newcastle upon Tyne, the 25th day of January, 1846.”

It was unanimously resolved that the report be printed and a copy of it transmitted to the high sheriffs from time to time.

The results of this recommendation were seen in the curtailed ceremonial at the Summer assizes of 1846, but the hospitality for which the town was renowned continued. In 1940 Lord Justice Mackinnon wrote that “ at Newcastle the judges are lodged at the Mansion House in Saville Row and are entertained there by the Corporation. This is the only city which is so hospitable.”<sup>19</sup>

Apart from the expenses included in the accounts for the judge's entertainment, another payment occurs, which since about 1852 has received the odd name of “ dagger money.” This payment was discussed by the late F. W. Dendy in our *Proceedings*<sup>20</sup> and by the late W. H. D. Longstaffe in *Archæologia Aeliana*,<sup>21</sup> but in spite of these reasoned and documented papers this payment is still called “ dagger money,” and the legend that it was paid in order that the judges might purchase daggers wherewith to defend themselves from bands of robbers is still solemnly told.<sup>22</sup>

It is therefore perhaps desirable to state again the little that is known about these payments before the mid-nine-

<sup>19</sup> *On Circuit*, 1940, p. 35.

<sup>20</sup> Vol. x, 2nd ser., p. 359.

<sup>21</sup> Vol. xxv, 2nd ser., p. 83.

<sup>22</sup> *On Circuit*, p. 39.

teenth century. This special gift is only twice recorded from the sheriff of Northumberland :

“ July 1627. From the sheriff of Northumberland at leave taking in gold, £1.”<sup>23</sup> This payment is also mentioned in the expenses account of Sir Thomas Swinburne, quoted from above (p. 231), “ to the judges Sir Henry Yelverton and Sir James Whitelocke either of them a *peece* at our parting upon Benwell hills.”<sup>24</sup> In 1676 Roger North writes, “ The Northumberland sheriff gave us all arms that is a dagger, knife, penknife, and fork all together.”<sup>25</sup> This was apparently either a composite utensil or all contained in one case; no mention is made of the Scots, and it was a gift from the sheriff of the county, not from the mayor of the town. It certainly was not fear of marauding Scots which troubled the judges in 1676, but “ the hideous road along by Tyne for the many sharp turnings and perpetual precipices was for a coach, not sustained by main force, impassable and his lordship was forced to take horse and ride most part of the way to Hexham.”<sup>26</sup> The account continues :

“ We were showed the Picts' wall; but it appeared only as a range, or bank of stones all overgrown with grass, not unlike the bank of the Devil's ditch at Newmarket, only without any hollow, and nothing near so big. Here his lordship saw the true image of a Border country. The tenants of the several manors are bound to guard the judges through their precinct; and out of it they would not go, no, not an inch, to save the souls of them. They were a comical sort of people, riding upon negs, as they call their small horses, with long beards, cloaks, and long broad-swords, with basket hilts, hanging in broad belts, that their legs and swords almost touched the ground; and everyone, in his turn, with his short cloak, and other equipage, came up cheek by jowl, and talked with my lord judge. His lordship was very well pleased with their discourse; for they were great antiquarians in their own bounds. We came at length, to Hexham, formerly a metropolis of a famous

<sup>23</sup> Sir Jas. Whitelocke (70 Camden Socy., p. 106).

<sup>24</sup> Hodgson, III, 1, 361.

<sup>25</sup> *Op. cit.* I, 287.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*

shire of that name. From the entertainment and lodging there, it might be mistaken; but whether for a Scotch or for a Welsh town, may be a nice point for the experienced to determine."

These are the only entries I have found of gifts from the High Sheriff to the judges. In the accounts of Bertram Mitford (1835) and Ralph Carr (1846) "leave is taken" of the judges but no gifts are given.

It was however customary, before 1561, for the mayor of Newcastle, at leave taking, to give each of the judges of assize an ancient coin, one out of circulation and not legal tender, "in reward," that is out of respect or regard for them. The entries are as follows:<sup>27</sup>

- Sept. 1561. Paid to Mayster Mayne that was given in reward to the judges, 30s.  
 Aug. 1566. Given at Mr. Maior's commandement to the judges two *olde ryalls* for their fee, 30s.  
 Aug. 1595. Paid for two *olde spurri riolls* given to the judges of the assizes, yearlie accustomed, 15s. & 6d. per peece, 31s.  
 1626. Maior of Newcastle at leaving a *spur royal* in gold.<sup>28</sup>  
 1659. Paid for *two rose nobles* given for the Judges, 42/6.

This pleasant custom, old in 1595, fell into disuse after the middle of the seventeenth century and is not again recorded until in 1852 Lord Campbell, on circuit as Chief Justice, records in his diary, "at our departure (from Newcastle) the mayor according to ancient usage presented to me a gold Jacobus *to buy a dagger*, with which I might defend myself from Scottish freebooters."<sup>29</sup>

It should be remembered that feasts and presents given to people of importance who visited the town were not confined to the judges, though only they were given ancient coins. The town was very hospitable, as a few examples, taken at random from Richardson's tract, will serve to show:<sup>30</sup>

<sup>27</sup> M. A. Richardson, *op. cit.*

<sup>28</sup> Sir Jas. Whitelocke (70 Camden Socy., p. 106).

<sup>29</sup> Quoted in *On Circuit*, p. 39.

<sup>30</sup> M. A. Richardson, *op. cit.*, *passim.*

- July 1561: paid for a present sent to Sir Henry Sednaye, knight lord ambassadowre into Skotland, 17/6.
- Marche 1565: paid . . . for a present sent to the Fraunche imbassyturs, 21/11.
- Oct. 1568: paid for a present sent to the Lord Regent of Skotland . . . , 13/-.
- Jan. 1590: Geven in rewarde by the towne to the noblemen of Persia . . . , £6.
- Oct. 1591: Geven in rewarde by the town to the nobleman of Mouldavye . . . , £6.
- Oct. 1594: paid for a banquet to the Staites (of Flanders) for a good cheere . . . £31 9s. 4d.
- Oct. 1594: Paide for . . . sent in a present to the Erle of Essex and my Lord Wharton as they came from Skotlande, £4 14s. 10d.
- May 1598: Paid for . . . sente for a presente to my lord Willabie att his goeing to Barwicke, £3 2s. 6d.

It will be seen that when these presents were not made in the form of sugar, wine, perfumes, etc., they were given in current, not old, coin.

The revival about 1850 of the ancient custom was very right and proper even after the lapse of two centuries, but why the gift should have been given the previously unknown but very picturesque name of "dagger money" is difficult to say. It seems probable that the publication in 1849 of Richardson's above-named tract (p. 231) brought this forgotten custom to light and the town decided to revive it. The payment may then have become connected in people's minds with the dagger which formed part of the utensil given to Justice North in 1676.<sup>31</sup> It is also possible that the gift of a "dudgeon dagger"<sup>32</sup> made to Justice, Sir James Whitelocke at Carlisle by the sheriff of Cumberland at the Summer assizes of the years 1627-28 may have been remembered. This gift was made after the "perils" of the journey from Newcastle to Carlisle were overpast and could therefore have no connection with marauding Scots even if such raids were possible at that date.

We have seen how Justice North was guarded on his

<sup>31</sup> Camden Socy. publs. 70, p. 106.

<sup>32</sup> A dagger with a handle made of boxwood.

journey westwards much more effectively than by a dagger wielded by his unaccustomed hand. Possibly romantic ideas derived from the novels of Walter Scott and his imitators, may have helped to popularize the myth. Nothing was beyond belief when the Romantic Movement was dominant.



SHERIFF'S PROCESSION TO MEET THE JUDGES.







BARGE DAY ON THE TYNE IN THE 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY BY WILSON HEPPLÉ.





ASCENSION DAY ON THE TYNE IN THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY BY J. W. CARMICHAEL.

