rarely; that is, of such as sacrifice themselves to death or danger for the good of their country; as was M. Regulus, and the two Decii.

LVI. OF JUDICATURE.

Judges ought to remember that their office is jus dicere, and not jus dare; to interpret law, and not to make law, or give law. Else will it be like the authority claimed by the church of Rome, which under pretext of exposition of Scripture doth not stick to

1 Sacrifice. To make an offering or sacrifice of one’s self; to devote one’s self as an expression of thanksgiving, reconciliation, consecration, or penitence.

2 Marcus Atilius Regulus, a celebrated Roman general and consul, who died about 250 B.C. According to Roman tradition, Regulus in the first Punic War, after conquering and devastating the country of the Carthaginians up to the gates of Carthage, was finally defeated and taken prisoner. Some time afterwards, the Carthaginians sent Regulus to Rome to negotiate an exchange of prisoners, first exacting from him a promise, on oath, that, if he were unsuccessful, he would return to captivity. Regulus advised the Roman senate not to consent to the exchange, on the ground that it would be disadvantageous to Rome. Then, true to his oath, he returned to Carthage, where the enraged Carthaginians put him to death in the most barbarous manner.

3 The two Decii were father and son of the same name, Publius Decius Mus, of the plebeian gens of the Decii. The father was consul in 340 B.C. In the battle of Mt. Vesuvius in that year, Decius, repeating after the chief pontiff a solemn formula by which he devoted “the legions and auxiliaries of the enemy along with himself to the Dii Manes and the earth-goddess,” then dashed into the ranks of the Latins, and met a death which was followed by a crushing defeat of the enemy. (Livy. VIII. 9.) The son, Publius Decius Mus, was consul for the fourth time in 296 B.C., and sacrificed himself after the manner of his father in the battle of Sentinum, when the left wing which he commanded was shaken by the Gauls. (Livy. X. 28.)

4 This essay contains the substance of Bacon’s charge as Lord Chancellor to Sir Richard Hutton on being created puisne, or junior, judge of the common bench. The speech was delivered in the Court of Common Pleas, May 3, 1617. Sir Richard Hutton, 1561(1)-1639, was a fellow ‘ancient’ of Bacon’s at Gray’s Inn. Bacon on delivering him his patent complimented him on possessing the virtues of a judge.

5 Stick. To scruple; hesitate.
add and alter; and to pronounce that which they do not find; and by shew of antiquity to introduce novelty. Judges ought to be more learned than witty, more reverend than plausible, and more advised than confident. Above all things, integrity is their portion and proper virtue. Cursed (saith the law) is he that removeth the landmark. The mislayer of a mere-stone is to blame. But it is the unjust judge that is the capital remover of landmarks, when he defineth amiss of lands and property. One foul sentence doth more hurt than many foul examples. For these do but corrupt the stream, the other corrupteth the fountain. So saith Salomon, Fons turbatus, et vena corrupta, est justus cadens in causis sum coram adversario. The office of judges may have reference unto the parties that sue, unto the advocates that plead, unto the clerks and ministers of justice underneath them, and to the sovereign or state above them.

First, for the causes or parties that sue. There be (saith the Scripture) that turn judgment into wormwood; and surely there be also that turn it into vinegar; for injustice maketh it bitter, and delays make it sour. The principal duty of a judge is to suppress force and fraud; whereof force is the more pernicious when it is open, and fraud when it is close and disguised. Add thereto contentious suits,
which ought to be spewed out, as the surfeit of courts. A judge ought to prepare his way to a just sentence, as God useth to prepare his way, by raising valleys and taking down hills: so when there appeareth on either side an high hand, violent prosecution, cunning advantages taken, combination, power, great counsel, then is the virtue of a judge seen, to make inequality equal; that he may plant his judgment as upon an even ground. *Qui fortiter emungit, elicit sanguinem;* 1 and where the wine-press is hard wrought, it yields a harsh wine, that tastes of the grape-stone. Judges must beware of hard constructions and strained inferences; for there is no worse torture than the torture of laws. Specially in case of laws penal, they ought to have care that that which was meant for terror be not turned into rigour; and that they bring not upon the people that shower whereof the Scripture speaketh, *Pluet super eos lacuos;* 2 for penal laws pressed are a shower of snares upon the people. Therefore let penal laws, if they have been sleepers of long, or if they be grown unfit for the present time, be by wise judges confined in the execution: *Judicis officium est, ut res, tta tempora rerum, &c.* 4 In causes of life and death,
judges ought (as far as the law permitteth) in justice to remember mercy; and to cast a severe eye upon the example, but a merciful eye upon the person.

Secondly, for the advocates and counsel that plead. Patience and gravity of hearing is an essential part of justice; and an overspeaking judge is no well-tuned cymbal. It is no grace to a judge first to find that which he might have heard in due time from the bar; or to show quickness of conceit in cutting off evidence or counsel too short; or to prevent information by questions, though pertinent. The parts of a judge in hearing are four: to direct the evidence; to moderate length, repetition, or impertinency of speech; to recapitulate, select, and collate the material points of that which hath been said; and to give the rule or sentence. Whatever is above these is too much; and proceedeth either of glory and willingness to speak, or of impatience to hear, or of shortness of memory, or of want of a staid and equal attention. It is a strange thing to see that the boldness of advocates should prevail with judges; whereas they should imitate God, in whose seat they sit; who repressest the presumptuous and giveth grace to the

1 Overspeaking. That speaks too much.
2 "Praises him upon the well-tuned cymbals." 
Psalm cl. 8. The Psalter.

3 Conceit. Conception; apprehension.
4 Prevent. To forestall. "For thou preventest him with the blessings of goodness: then setteth a crown of pure gold on his head." 
Psalm xxi. 3.
5 Impertinency. Irrelevancy.
6 Of. From.
7 Glory. Vanity; display.
8 Grace. Favor. "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." 
James i. 6.
modest. But it is more strange, that judges should have noted favourites; which cannot but cause multiplication of fees, and suspicion of bye-ways. There is due from the judge to the advocate some commendation and gracing, where causes are well handled and fair pleaded; especially towards the side which obtaineth not; for that upholds in the client the reputation of his counsel, and beats down in him the conceit of his cause. There is likewise due to the public a civil reprehension of advocates, where there appeareth cunning counsel, gross neglect, slight information, indiscreet pressing, or an over-bold defence. And let not the counsel at the bar chop with the judge, nor wind himself into the handling of the cause anew after the judge hath declared his sentence; but on the other side, let not the judge meet the cause half way, nor give occasion for the party to say his counsel or proofs were not heard.

Thirdly, for that that concerns clerks and ministers. The place of justice is an hallowed place; and therefore not only the bench, but the foot-pace and precincts and purprise thereof, ought to be preserved without scandal and corruption. For cer-

1 Grace. To favor.
5 Foot-pace. Lobby.
6 Purprise. Enclosure.
tainly *Grapes* (as the Scripture saith) will not be gathered of thorns or thistles; ¹ neither can justice yield her fruit with sweetness amongst the briars and brambles of catching and polling ² clerks and ministers. The attendance of courts is subject to four bad instruments. First, certain persons that are sowers of suits; which make the court swell, and the country pine. The second sort is of those that engage courts in quarrels of jurisdiction, and are not truly amici curiae, but parasiti curiae, ³ in puffing a court up beyond her bounds, for their own scraps ⁴ and advantage. The third sort is of those that may be accounted the left hands of courts; persons that are full of nimble and sinister tricks and shifts, whereby they pervert the plain and direct courses of courts, and bring justice into oblique lines and labyrinths. And the fourth is the poller and exacter of fees; which justifies the common resemblance of the courts of justice to the bush whereunto while the sheep flies for defence in weather, he is sure to lose part of his fleecce. On the other side, an ancient clerk, skilful in precedents, wary in proceedings, and understanding in the business of the court, is an excellent finger of a court; and doth many times point the way to the judge himself.

¹ "Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?" Matthew vii. 18.
² Poll. To plunder; to exact 'graft.' Poller, a little further on, means a plunderer, a 'grafter.'
³ Friends of the court, but parasites of the court.
⁴ Scrap. In the provincial English of Norfolk, a scrap, or scrape, is a quantity of chaff mixed with grain and laid as a decoy to lure small birds for the purpose of shooting or netting them; hence, a scrap. Familiar, in the spelling 'scare,' meaning a situation of difficulty or perplexity. "Scraps. A villainous scheme or plot. Grose." A Dictionary of Slang and Colloquial English. John S. Farmer and W. Z. Henley. 1905.
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Fourthly, for that which may concern the sovereign and estate. Judges ought above all to remember the conclusion of the Roman Twelve Tables; *Salus populi suprema lex*; and to know that laws, except they be in order to that end, are but things captious, and oracles not well inspired. Therefore it is an happy thing in a state when kings and states do often consult with judges; and again when judges do often consult with the king and state: the one, when there is matter of law intervenient in business of state; the other, when there is some consideration of state intervenient in matter of law. For many times the things deduced to judgment may be *meum* and *tuum*, when the reason and consequence thereof may trench to point of estate. I call matter of estate, not only the parts of sovereignty, but whatsoever introduceth any great alteration or dangerous precedent; or concerneth manifestly any great portion of people. And let no man weakly conceive that just laws and true policy have any antipathy; for they are like the spirits and sinews, that one moves with the other. Let judges also remember, that Salomon's throne was supported by lions on both sides: let them be lions, but yet

1 The safety of the people is the supreme law. The quotation is not from the Laws of the XII Tables, but from Cicero, *De Legibus Liber III. Caput 2. Section 9*, where Cicero proposes it as a law for the government of his imaginary Republic.
2 *Captious. Perplexing.*
3 *Intervenient. Intervening.*
4 *Mine* and *thine.*
5 *Estate. State.*
6 "The throne had six steps, and the top of the throne was round behind; and there were stays on either side on the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the stays. The throne had six steps, and the top of the throne was round behind; and there were stays on either side on the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the stays. And twelve lions stood there on the one side and on the other upon the six steps: there was not the like made in any kingdom." *1. Kings 1; 19 and 20.*
lions under the throne; being circumspect that they do not check or oppose any points of sovereignty. Let not judges also be so ignorant of their own right, as to think there is not left to them, as a principal part of their office, a wise use and application of laws. For they may remember what the apostle saith of a greater law than theirs; Nos scimus quia lex bona est, modo quis ed utatur legitimate.¹

LVII. OF ANGER.

To seek to extinguish Anger utterly is but a bravery² of the Stoics. We have better oracles: Be angry, but sin not. Let not the sun go down upon your anger.³ Anger must be limited and confined both in race and in time. We will first speak how the natural inclination and habit to be angry may be attempered⁴ and calmed. Secondly, how the particular motions of anger may be repressed, or at least refrained⁵ from doing mischief. Thirdly, how to raise anger or appease anger in another.

¹ "But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully." I. Timothy i. 8. Bacon quotes the Vulgate, varying the language slightly. It is there, "Scimus autem quia bona est lex, et quae ea legitimate utatur."
² Bravery. Bravado; boast.
³ Ephesians iv. 26.
⁴ Attempered. Tempered.
⁵ Refrain. To restrain.

"And thou, O human heart of mine, Be still, refrain thyself, and wait."