

**LEGAL RECREATIONS,  
VOL. III.: JUDICIAL  
PUZZLES: GATHERED  
FROM THE STATE TRIALS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649476039

Legal Recreations, Vol. III.: Judicial Puzzles: Gathered from the State Trials by John Paget

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**JOHN PAGET**

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LEGAL RECREATIONS.

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VOL. III.

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Judicial Puzzles.

JUDICIAL  
PUZZLES.

Gathered from the State Trials.

BY

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SAN FRANCISCO:

SUMNER WHITNEY & Co.

1876.

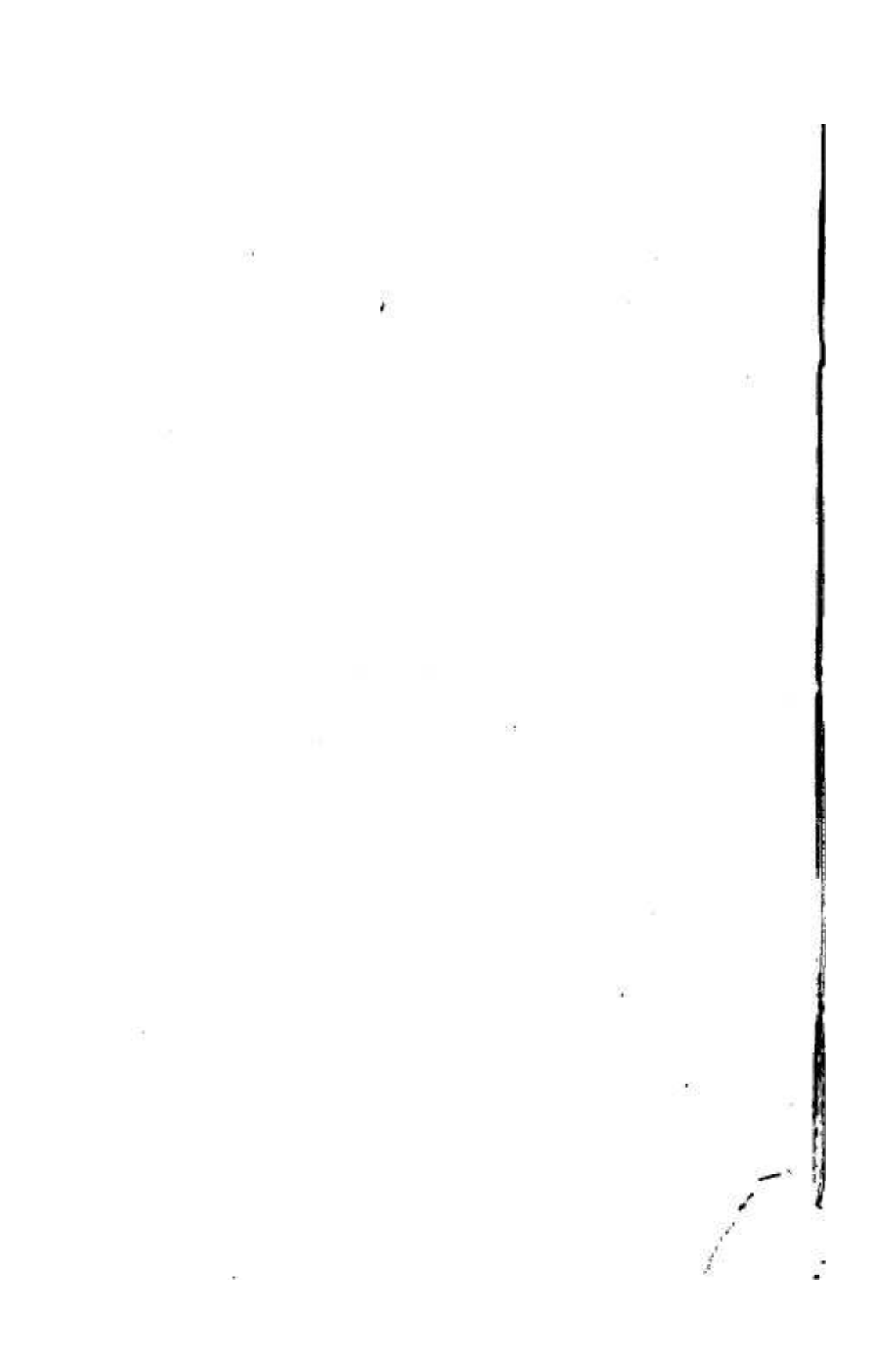
## PREFACE.

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These narratives and reviews of five most interesting State trials were published in "Blackwood's Magazine" in 1859-60, and subsequently reprinted, among other contributions of the same author, in a volume entitled "Paradoxes and Puzzles."

The publishers present this American edition with the belief that it will prove attractive to general readers as well as the legal profession and add a pleasant variety to the series of "LEGAL RECREATIONS."

January, 1876.





# CONTENTS.

## I. ELIZABETH CANNING.

Her story .....	10-20
Henry Fielding .....	20
Sir Crispe Gascoyne .....	27
Conviction of Squires and Wells .....	27
Conviction of Canning .....	35

## II. THE CAMPDEN WONDER.

### TRIAL OF THE PERRYs FOR MURDER OF HARRISON.

Chipping Campden .....	37
Justice Shallow and Will Squeals .....	38
Disappearance of Harrison .....	39
Confession of John Perry .....	41
Trial and execution of Joan, Richard, and John Perry .....	43
Return of Harrison .....	44
His narrative .....	44
Confessions .....	51
Mania for self-accusation .....	51
Cowper, the poet .....	51
Case at Calais .....	52
Confession of the witches .....	52
Isabel Gowdie, Janet Breudheid .....	53
Modern cases .....	60
Samuel Wall .....	60
Mutiny of the <i>Hermions</i> .....	65

## III. THE ANNESLEY CASE.

Marriage of Lord Altham .....	69
Appearance of the claimant .....	70

His trial for murder, and acquittal .....	71
Had Lady Altham ever had a child? .....	73
The household at Dunmaine .....	73
Contradictory evidences.....	74-81
Evidence of Palliser, Joan Laffan, and Mary Heath ..	78
Kidnapping of James Annesley .....	84
Contradictory verdicts.....	85, 86

#### IV. ELIZA FENNING.

Her funeral .....	87
Her trial.....	89-96
Reasons for believing her guilty .....	97
Rule of law preventing accused from giving evidence.	100
Inconsistency of the rule .....	101
Evils of the rule.....	101
Hatche's case .....	102
Plummer's case.....	103
Case of Squires.....	104
Canning's case .....	104
Suggested alteration of the rule.....	104
The Road Murder.....	108

#### V. SPENCER COWPER'S CASE.

Sarah Stout .....	109
Character of Spencer Cowper .....	110
His trial.....	112
Walker's evidence .....	112
Cowper's defence .....	115
Finding of the body of Sarah Stout .....	119
Lord Macaulay's account of the trial.....	123
His misrepresentations of facts and distortion of evi- dence .....	129
The Quakers.....	135
William Tallack.....	137
Lord Macaulay's unscrupulous treatment of facts a dangerous weapon .....	140
Might be easily turned against himself .....	140

## JUDICIAL PUZZLES.

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### I.

#### ELIZABETH CANNING.

Every one has heard of the case of Elizabeth Canning. It is constantly quoted, constantly relied upon as an authority for propositions the most diverse and even contradictory. There is a general vague idea that an ingenious fraud was by some marvellous agency detected, that innocence was rescued from imminent peril, and truth vindicated; but by what means or under what circumstances this took place, who was innocent and who was guilty, very few of those in whose mouths the name of the case is most familiar would be able to say. To any one who has taken the pains to make himself master of the case, this hazy condition of mind will be anything but surprising. It is, in truth, perhaps, the most complete and most inexplicable Judicial Puzzle on record; and after reading four hundred and twenty-nine pages of close bad print, in the 19th volume of the "State Trials," a candid man will find himself equally amazed at the zeal, the industry, the ingenuity with which it was sought to discover where the truth really lay; and the way in which, notwithstanding the fullest and most patient