

The detailed description of the charges occupied Mr. Bodkin the greater part of two hours.

It appeared, he said, that the family of Lieut.-Col. Shipway formerly lived in the Western Counties of England, and a few years ago he was desirous of tracing his right to bear arms and to investigate the pedigree of his family. He was introduced to the defendant, who passed as a B.A., saying that he had studied at Lincoln College, Oxford, but inquiries now showed that the only B.A. of that college of the name of Davies, of about the prisoner's age, was a gentleman who became a member of the Bar, and emigrated to Australia. It appeared, therefore, that the prisoner had taken upon himself this gentleman's qualifications. The defendant was, however, as would be shown, a man of some education, with a knowledge of Latin, and acquainted with old handwritings.

In November, 1895, he was engaged by Colonel Shipway to make these inquiries at a salary of 6s. a day, his expenses being paid. By "cooking" his accounts, however, the defendant succeeded in defrauding Colonel Shipway of considerable sums. A total amount of £683 was paid him, of which only £266 represented his salary, the remainder being, as he made out, for expenses. It seemed that quite early in his employment he came across a book called "A History of Dursley," in which mention was made of the Shipway family, and it would seem that the idea struck him that it would be considerably more remunerative if he deceived Colonel Shipway as to the real history of his family. Accordingly he wrote Colonel Shipway at considerable length as to the important position held by the old Shipway family in the neighbourhood. The Shipways appear, in fact, to have been in the position of yeomen farmers, and it was possible that at some time they may have possessed Beverston Castle in Gloucestershire, though not as the defendant represented.

As it was Colonel Shipway's desire to discover the family arms, in January 1896, defendant wrote to tell him that he had discovered the Shipway crest, engraved upon a seal which he had received from an old villager at Mangotsfield, in Gloucestershire, who was ninety-five years of age. This seal, he said, he had purchased, and in order to complete the deception of Colonel Shipway, in July 1896, he went to Bristol, describing himself as a commercial traveller named