

the time of entering Colonel Shipway's employment the defendant was only twenty-two years of age. He was the son of a small furniture-dealer at Birmingham, and received his early education at King Edward the Sixth's School. He left that institution when eleven years of age, and four years later was appointed assistant-master at a school in the same neighbourhood. Owing to the deficiency of his qualifications, he experienced difficulty in retaining his appointments, and this led to his assumption of honours—such as B.A., Oxford—to which he was not entitled. In December, 1895, he was induced to enter the service of Colonel Shipway, and during a period of eighteen months he doubtless performed an enormous amount of genuine research. The time came when it was obvious that no substantial good would accrue from his services, and then he yielded to the temptation of forgery. Some of those ancient records were probably of little more than sentimental value.

*The Recorder* : Indeed, these documents are important from the historical standpoint.

*Mr. Waddy* thought their value might be gauged by the fact that during seventeen years nobody came to Mangotsfield to inspect them. When the Heralds' College demanded something more than entries from registers, the prisoner, from a mistaken idea as to Colonel Shipway's wishes, set about the forgery of wills. That, too, was a serious offence, but it should be remembered that the most recent of the wills tampered with was 260 years old, and they could not, therefore, have any possible effect upon the transfer of property. It was marvellous that these discoveries, occurring in such quick succession, did not excite suspicion.

*The Recorder* : Not at all. Assuming the original discovery to be genuine, others might reasonably have been expected to quickly follow.

*Mr. Waddy* : A prudent man would not have lavished such a wealth of discovery upon Colonel Shipway.

*The Recorder* : But it all meant money to the prisoner ?

*Mr. Waddy* : Yes ; but the money would have continued if the discoveries had been less numerous. It is perfectly true that Davies has received £700 altogether from Colonel Shipway, but from that, large deduction must be made for out-of-pocket expenses. Through his solicitors, Colonel Shipway