

turies, and also for the reporting of the plays of Shakespeare and other dramatists at the beginning of the 17th century.

One of the earliest legal reports to be found in print, is that of a famous Republican agitator in London, in 1649. It is described in the title page as having been "exactly penned and taken down in shorthand as it was possible to be done in such a crowd and noise."

From this time on shorthand was very generally used for legal purposes, for all state trials, trials for treason, for the Popish plot trials, etc.

The earliest official appointment of a shorthand writer to take notes of legal proceedings, was that of Thomas Gurney, in 1738, by the Corporation of the City of London. He also did general reporting, and the business established by him has been conducted by members of the Gurney family from that day to this—or, over a century and a half. They have records of daily engagements extending back to 1785, or a little more than a century. It is needless to say that this is the oldest firm of shorthand reporters in the world.

The greatest trial which Thomas Gurney ever reported, and which was perhaps the greatest trial in all history, was the trial for the impeachment of Warren Hastings, whose life and achievements read like a romance. As this was a trial of great importance and world-wide interest, we cannot refrain from quoting an extract from the exhaustive description of it by Macaulay, as given in his life of Warren Hastings:

"On the thirteenth of February, 1788, the sittings of the court commenced. There have been spectacles more dazzling to the eye, more gorgeous with jewelry and cloth of gold, more attractive to grown-up children, than that which was exhibited at Westminster; but, perhaps, there never was a spectacle so well calculated to strike a highly cultivated, a reflecting, an imaginative mind. All the various kinds of interest which belong to the near and to the distant, to the present and to the past, were collected on one spot and in one hour. All the talents and all the accomplishments which are developed by liberty and civilization were now displayed, with every advantage that could be derived both from co-operation and from contrast. Every step in the proceedings carried the mind either backward, through many troubled