

**THE STORY OF
NUNCOMAR AND THE
IMPEACHMENT OF
SIR ELIJAH IMPEY**

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The story of Nuncomar and the impeachment of Sir Elijah Impey by Sir James Fitzjames
Stephen

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SIR JAMES FITZJAMES STEPHEN

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SIR ELIJAH IMPEY

BY

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*One of the Judges of the High Court of Justice
Queen's Bench Division*

IN TWO VOLUMES

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CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

IN writing the *History of the Criminal Law of England*, I was much struck with the way in which nearly all the most important parts of our history connect themselves in one way or another with the administration of criminal justice, and with the importance which, in writing history, attaches to a technical knowledge of the law. This led me to form a plan of studying, with a lawyer's eye, some of the more remarkable of the trials in which our history abounds; and of giving such accounts of them as might be recognised by lawyers as accurate, and might interest historical students. After some hesitation, I decided to give an account of the impeachment of Warren Hastings, which appeared to me, upon many grounds, not only to be a matter of surpassing interest, but to deserve more study than it has ever received; and I devoted to the study of the subject a considerable part of the moderate amount of leisure left to me by my judicial duties. I found the materials so voluminous, and the subject so intricate, that I soon began to doubt whether I should be able to finish it in any