

# **MEMORIES OF FAMOUS TRIALS**

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Memories of Famous Trials by Evelyn Burnaby

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**EVELYN BURNABY**

**MEMORIES OF  
FAMOUS TRIALS**





*Alverstone*

RICHARD EVERARD, BARON ALVERSTONE, G.C.M.G., Lord Chief-  
Justice of England

*Elliott & Fry*

[Frontispiece

# MEMORIES OF FAMOUS TRIALS

BY  
EVELYN BURNABY, M.A., S.C.L. OXON.

AUTHOR OF  
"A RIDE FROM LAND'S END TO JOHN O' GROAT'S"

*SECOND IMPRESSION*

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1907



TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
RICHARD EVERARD, BARON ALVERSTONE, G.C.M.G.,  
LORD CHIEF JUSTICE OF ENGLAND,  
IN REMEMBRANCE OF A SINCERE FRIENDSHIP OF FIFTEEN  
YEARS, DURING WHICH TIME HE REPRESENTED THE  
ISLE OF WIGHT IN PARLIAMENT, THIS WORK  
IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED BY HIS  
OLD FRIEND, THE AUTHOR.

*March 1907.*



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## TO THE READER

THE Rev. Evelyn Henry Villebois Burnaby has been a constant attendant at celebrated trials for nearly half a century. His father was the late Rev. Gustavus Burnaby of Somerby Hall, Leicestershire, for many years rector of St Peter's, Bedford, and Canon of Middleham. His mother was a sister of Maria, Viscountess Glentworth, who died three years ago in her 101st year. She was the daughter of Mr Henry Villebois, the Squire of Marham, Norfolk. Mr Burnaby's mother's family were keen followers of the chase. His grandfather, Mr Henry Villebois, hunted a pack of staghounds in Norfolk. His brother, Mr Frederick Villebois, was Master of the Craven from 1833 to 1851, and left the pack of hounds to the county, making ample provision by his will for the Huntsmen and Whips. Mr Truman Villebois hunted the H. H. from 1802 to 1837. Mr Henry Villebois of the next generation—commonly known as "The Squire"—hunted the whole V. W. H. country, 1850-5, and was twice Master of the West Norfolk from 1859-65 and 1875-77. He enjoyed the personal friendship of the King when Prince of Wales, to whom he introduced Parson Jack Russell, the well-known Devonshire sportsman, and it is well remembered

that, when a visitor at Sandringham on New Year's Eve, Parson Jack was dancing the old year out and the new year in with the present Queen, he remarked to her—then Princess of Wales—with the courtesy of the old school which, alas! is now dying out:—"My dear I am the only man who will be able to say he has had this honour," the Princess gave him her hand and said, "You are quite right, Mr Russell; no one else has ever danced the old year out and the new year in with me." Evelyn was educated at Eton, where he was a contemporary of the Duke of Argyll, Mr A. J. Balfour, the Earl of Elgin, the present Duke of Beaufort, the late Lord Randolph Churchill, Lord Rosebery, Sir Reginald Pole-Carew, and Ernest Vivian, now Lord Swansea—his life-long friend. After graduating with honours at Oxford he became rector of Burrough-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire. His first wife, whom he married in 1871, was Miss Winifred Crake, a cousin of the last year's captain of the Harrow Eleven. She was renowned for her beauty and charm of manner and died at Somerby Hall in 1873, at the age of twenty-two, after childbirth. He married secondly the Hon. Margaret Catherine Erskine, daughter of John Cadwallader, the fourth Baron Erskine, and great-grand-daughter of the famous Lord Erskine, the Lord Chancellor of England. By his second marriage he had issue, an only child and daughter. Mr Burnaby is as fond of his Dandie Dinmont dogs as Lord Brampton was