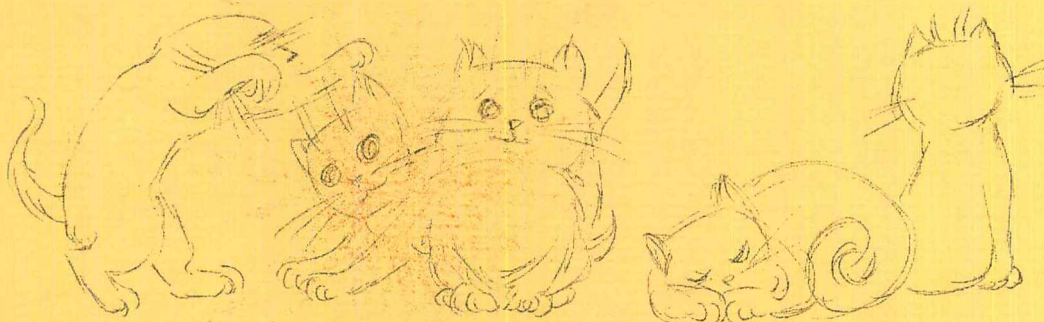




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Kittens are very difficult to give away this year. We have had people say they want one, but it's been nine weeks since the kittens arrived by Caesarian operation, and we not only have the original five, but one more! If this keeps up, we'll have a dozen or more by simply giving away the remaining kittens! How's that for a riddle, Bennett?

Actually, two kittens are waiting for their prospective owners to move into new apartments that take cats, and one kitten is being held by us until the new owner's father is out of danger in the hospital, because right now nobody has time to pay attention to a kitten. The 6th one is a refugee from a drainage ditch. He's about 18 days old, unweaned, very dirty, and sort of black-grey. Some dirty human put him in a paper bag and tossed him in a ditch, where the neighborhood kids found him. What more logical move than to bring him to the lady with all the cats?

I just gave him a bath, which he hated. Now he's curled in front of the heater, purring loudly (this is the youngest I've ever heard a cat purr) and washing himself down again. Anyone need a cat? Please?

Oh, well. When I lived on our tiny little farm as a girl, we had all kinds of critters around. The closest veterinarian was 18 miles away, and few farmers were willing to call him out for a dog or cat, anyway. So kids brought them to me, to see if I could fix them up, or the father would simply dispatch them with a handy rock. I learned a lot about broken legs, minor internal injuries, and fixing wounds. Later, when taking First Aid lessons, I discovered that humans were lots easier to take care of, because they didn't have sharp teeth and claws.

Also, you can more or less reason with people; a hurt animal is an entirely illogical bundle of nerves and reactions. Or, if you can't reason with a human, at least I don't feel so bad about belting them, or yelling at them, if necessary. Some nurse I'd make, huh, Ethel? But with a handful of frantic cat, armed with at least 20 claws and as many teeth, reasoning power isn't what you need! (I say "at least" 20 claws, because of our multi-toed cats, who have 6 or 7 toes more per foot than normal cats). Still, I prefer to care for animals than people.

Changing the subject slightly to a human baby instead of kittens, I've been reading books on "what to name the baby" and finding all sorts of crazy information. No two books agree completely on some of the name-meanings, although they may be close in general meaning. For instance, Elizabeth means "consecrated to God" in one book, and "gift of the Lord" in another. Close, but a small difference in meaning there. My own real

name is Betty, which is a diminutive for Elizabeth. Momma actually did use only Betty, though, because she didn't want me called "lizzie", as most Southern gals named Elizabeth get tagged. I was born in Oklahoma.

I thought you might be interested in knowing what your names mean; according to a pamphlet from Mennen Baby Products, called "25 Questions Most Often Asked About Baby! & 2,000 Names (and their meanings) For Your Baby", which seems to have about the most standard meanings of them all.

No meanings are listed for Alva, Ellis, or Helmut, but if I find them later in another book, I'll add those to the list or to a future one.

THOMAS (Armistead): means "twin".
JOHN (Baxter, Trimble, Harness, Roles): "God is gracious".
RONALD (Bennett): also Reginald - "strong ruler".
BRIAN (Burgess, Jordan): "ruler".
BRUCE (Burn, Pelz): "ruler".
TERENCE (Carr, Jeeves): "tender".
ELINOR (Busby): also Eleanor, Elena, Helen - "bright as the dawn".
KENNETH (Cheslin): "handsome"
LAWRENCE (Crilly): "victor".
WILLIAM (Donaho, Evans): "protector".
RICHARD (Eney, Schultz): "bold fighter".
GORDON (Eklund): "strong, upright".
DONALD (Fitch, Ford, Studebaker, Hale): "proud chief".
HARVEY (Forman): "noble warrior".
COLIN (Freeman): "triumph".
ROBERTA (Gray): "famous".
OWEN (Hannifen): "high-born".
LYNN (Hickman): "Lake".
FREDERICK (Patten, Hunter): "peaceful ruler".
ROSEMARY (Hickey): Rosemarie - "rose of the sea".
THEODORE (Johnstone): "gift of God".
ROY (Kay): from roi, "king".
ROBERT (Lichtman): also Robin, "illustrious".
ETHEL (Lindsay): also Ethelinda - "noble".
GEORGE (Locke): "farmer".
ARCHIBALD (Mercer): "valiant" (or ARCHER: "bowman").
NORMAN (Metcalf): "man from the North".
ELLA (Parker): also from Ellen, Elline, Helen - "bright as the dawn".
JOSEPH (Patrizio): "prosperous".
CHARLES (Wells): "strong".

If I missed on some of the names, it's because I really don't know your full name and had to guess. But it is interesting, isn't it? With only initials for first names on the roster, it is even more of a game, because I don't know all of you well enough to know what your name is! I'm guessing that D. Hale is Don. If you are really Derrell, Durward, or Dwight, my apologies. I'll do the waitlist, but I don't know I. Peters.

DAVID (Hulan): "beloved"
JAMES (Linwood): also Jacob - "one who replaces".

And I guess I don't know who M. Booth is, either. Sorry. Thomas Scueck can check the top of the list. We have about decided to name our baby DAVID, if a boy, and KATHRYN ("pure one") after John's mom, if a girl. John thinks Kathleen is pretty, too. He doesn't like "John".

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The reason OMPAns got a copy of The Loyal Opposition is complicated; but mainly boils down to our not knowing just how wide-spread this mess was. We (meaning Al Lewis, John and me) felt that all possible contacts should have both "sides" to this thing. Donaho published his little spleen-zine, The Great Green Boondoggle, at first for a limited group who were supposed to DNQ it. Very soon afterward, he published a second unrevised edition for larger circulation. We still do not know how large that mailing list was.

While trying to guess who might have gotten Boondoggle, we heard from several sources (all of whom threaten to commit mayhem or hari-kari if their names are mentioned) that the '65 London people were up in arms against Breen and planning to oust him from that convention, too. This is somewhat on the same order as running over the curb to knock down a maybe-would-be probable jay-walker. However, the sources seemed very sure of themselves, which led us to believe that the rumors (and they are no more than that, except for a couple of overly-magnified incidents) had spread far enough through Anglofandom to have an effect.

We are now assured that this was not true. In that case, we feel badly about sending TLO to you people. However, under the circumstances, we did not feel that taking the chance was too much. We still have no intention of standing by and letting one person maliciously attack another without making quite a bit of noise about it. In any case, whatever you think of the situation, please accept TLO at least in the sincere attempt it was to present a fair picture of what was going on. We had no way of knowing how far-reaching either publication was.

So much for that. I've given you reasons, not excuses; we are not sorry for publishing or sending out TLO to anyone. We are sorry that TLO was made necessary at all. Again I will repeat what we said in TLO: we are in favor of the convention having the power to oust anyone they wish for any cause whatsoever. We are loudly against the methods used by this convention to go about what should have been a quieter and less nasty bit of business. It isn't what they've done, but how they've done it that is under fire from anyone who hates the growing power and publicly-allowed latitude of the slanderer.

I hope that explains our position in this matter fully.

The cover of Procrastinator #2, and Melange #7 (our FAPA zine) are alike because John got carried away with running it off. The illo was really a sketch titled "Believe!" and was a rather obscure reference to a Heinlein-like attitude on organized religion.

Also, John's paper on the formation of the English police will be in both OMPA and FAPA; I don't know if there will be a page-credit hassle because of this or not. Mainly, we wanted to share it with as many possible interested parties as we could. Page-credit doesn't matter that much, though it would be nice if we could get it, too. In any case, we hope you like it, and perhaps the subject, or a related one will help start another good topic of conversation.

Next time, we may even have mailing comments. We aren't against them; just busy with other things right now. When we feel a little less like intruders in a private cocktail party (which is always the effect I feel when entering any new group), we'll become lots more active.

-----Bjo----

FROM THIEF-TAKERS TO BOBBIES;

by John Trimble

ON THE ORIGINS OF THE ENGLISH POLICE

The English Police, and especially the London Metropolitan Police, are renowned throughout the world for being efficient and yet respectful of individual liberty and dignity. The origins of the force - barely 135 years old - are most interesting, and a study in the development of institutions in a democratic society.

From Norman times until the Metropolitan Police Act of 1829, London and the rest of England was policed - if it could be called that - by the medieval parish-constable system of law enforcement. Under this arrangement, each citizen of a particular parish, or ward, was liable for service as a constable of this self-contained unit for a period of one year; much in the same way that each voter is liable for jury duty in the modern day. This system was not designed for large towns, or an industrialized society. In fact, says Patrick Pringle, author of Hue & Cry, "it was not designed at all: it just happened."

These constables came under the authority of individual parish justices of the peace, or magistrates. These magistrates were similar to French Chiefs of Police, in that they combined both judicial and administrative powers in a single officer. The constables acted as the magistrate's working assistants. In the rural areas of England, this system worked out quite well; country gentlemen occupied the office out of a sense of public duty, or possibly out of sheer vanity, or the love of power. The lack of recompense (which was never - when paid at all - more than nominal) did not bother well-to-do men.

As the socio-economic patterns of English life changed, the villages grew into towns, and the towns into cities, and the parish-constable system broke down completely. Corruption played a large part in this breakdown, but even had it not done so, there just were not enough magistrates and constables to go around. In addition, their powers were not adequate to the task, and there was a complete lack of any co-ordinating authority.

The lack of salary to be paid to these magistrates and constables was of no import in a largely rural England, but the urbanization and resulting increase in complexity of society during the Seventeenth and Eighteenth centuries led to another sort of person being appointed to the positions. The sort of country gentlemen who had been filling the offices for centuries were not the sort to accept office in such a place as London; sense of duty, or vanity, or even love of power had their limits. However, greed was enough to insure a goodly source of candidates of another stripe.

A London magistrate, even though unsalaried (or almost so), stood to make a fair amount of money; besides reimbursement for expenses, he was allowed the proceeds from any fees and fines which he levied. For instance, a whore could be fined 2s.4d., and, referring to Mr. Pringle again: "...taking up a hundred girls, that would make, at 2s.4d., £11 13s.4d. They sent none to gaol, for the bailing of them was so much better." The step from such

bailing to demanding protection money is a short one. The magistrates did pretty much as they liked - the lack of co-ordinating authority also meant a lack of supervision.

These magistrates held court where it pleased them; in their own rooms, or in a favorite shop or tavern. They became known as "trading justices in the justice-shop" and were described by Smollett as "men of profligate lives, needy, mean, ignorant, and rapacious". The magistrates' reputation was so unsavory that respectable men would not take the office.

The constables -- also without salary, but entitled to certain fees - were under the charge of such men as these magistrates. Constables were given a percentage of certain fines, and were also able to accept gratuities. Theoretically, the constables' one-third of the £200 fine for operating a gaming-house should have encouraged them to be quite zealous in prosecuting the gaming-house keepers. In practice, the constables found it advantageous to settle such things out of court.

Assistance was given to the constables by persons known as "beadles", who were sometimes paid £20 a year, and by a night-watch - employed by the vestry, and paid a shilling or less. The rate of pay limited recruitment to those least able to do their job properly. And, of course, corruption took its toll among these people, also.

In addition to these legal "law-enforcement" officials, Eighteenth Century England had an institution known as the "Thief-takers". The basic principle was that every citizen was a policeman. If you were assaulted or robbed, you arrested and prosecuted the offender yourself.

The Highwayman Act of 1692 offered a reward of £40 to anyone who arrested any highwayman - no qualifications as to time and date of the offense were mentioned - and prosecuted him to conviction. In the terms of reference of this Act, the highways extended into the streets of London. The Act was aimed at conviction for capital offense, and was followed by other acts rewarding apprehenders of other kinds of criminals. There was soon a sliding scale of payments, with various and sundry extras thrown in. Self-interest was the guiding principle for the thief-taker. And it was supposed that this would increase the zeal of the watchmen and parish-constables, for they were entitled to rewards just like anyone else.

A man named Johnathan Wild set himself up as Thief-Taker General in the early 1700's. He advertised himself as such in the newspapers of the day, and claimed that he had apprehended and prosecuted about sixty-seven persons to conviction for capital offenses. Wild also made a specialty of recovering stolen property for people who had been robbed - for a fee, of course. The fact that he was a receiver of stolen goods, and "king" of the London underworld, was cleverly concealed.

Wild made enemies: his control of the criminal element gave him that fatal taste of power which has led so many other men to step across the thin partition that separates use from abuse of power, and eventually his underworld associates helped to bring about his downfall. In addition, Sir William Thompson, a corrupt M.P., decided that the arrest and conviction of Wild would be quite a feather in his cap. Thompson pursued Wild relentlessly, irregardless of several set-backs in his own career, getting several acts aimed at Wild (but also against criminals in general) through parliament. Finally Wild was exposed, tried, convicted and hanged at Tyburn on May 24, 1725.

Crime steadily increased as English society grew more complex and urban. The advent of gin only compounded the situation, for drunken men and women would turn to crime in order to obtain the means to get more gin. Working on the theory that more severe punishments for crimes will correspondingly deter more would-be criminals, the number of legal capital offenses rose from about 50 in 1688 to 223 in 1823. During this period crime continued to increase, especially those kinds of crimes punishable by death.

Drawing and quartering capital criminals (or burning them at the stake, if they were women), or hanging their bodies on gibbets along the roadsides apparently did not deter crime. It probably had more of an effect on innocent travelers and visitors from abroad, for according to Christopher Hibbert's The Road to Tyburn, "the human body was not considered in any degree sacrosanct". The severed head of a murder victim might also be displayed on a pole in an attempt to secure identification of the dead person.

Flogging and hanging in the pillory were punishments for lesser crimes, although oftentimes the latter punishment actually became a capital sentence. The crowds loved to pelt the heads in the pillory with every manner of filth, sticks, eggs, stones, dead animals, bottles, etc. The hangman was fair game if he stepped up, as he often had to do, to scrape the filth from the heads of the criminals, because it was not unknown for a person to suffocate as the mud and rotten fruit splashed on his face and filled his nostrils and mouth. Many pilloried persons were maimed for life by being hit by missiles from the crowd, or from being poked and stabbed by all manner of sharp or pointed instruments wielded by the mob.

The jails - Newgate especially - were true hell-holes. The wardens of these institutions ran them as they pleased, accepting bribes to furnish better quarters, etc. Men, women, and children were all quartered together, and the lack of sanitary facilities made the places breeding grounds for typhus. In addition, since pregnant women were exempt from hanging or burning, those women convicted of capital offenses were more than willing to prostitute themselves to fellow prisoners or their jailers in order to possibly escape the executioner.

The laws were written to favor the accused. Convictions were hard to get, and often the accused might go free only to turn about and prosecute his former accuser and prosecutor. Such a situation made thief-taking a more risky business than it might have been, and compounded the difficulties for the already inadequate parish-constables. To get the militia to help put down a riot, a magistrate had to first persuade some military officer to send his troops - no small task - and then he had to stand in front of the rioters and read the Riot Act, in full! No military or secret police were going to abridge the right of Englishmen!

Only slowly did the idea that increasing the chances of the criminal being caught and convicted would lessen the requirement for severe punishment as a deterrent begin to penetrate English thought. Englishmen were well aware that their country was the most lawless nation in the Western world. And they were equally well aware of the Continental solution to the problem; the establishment of a police force.

Freedom and economy were the rallying cries of those who opposed the establishment of any kind of effective police. The English had watched the continental police at work from afar, and were aware of the abuses such a system spawned. Cromwell's attempt to impose a similar force during the

Protectorate-Commonwealth had only increased English hostility toward such an institution, and it was felt that the establishment of any kind of effective police would be a breach of the Constitution.

In addition, it was commonly supposed that the increased burden of paying for a police force could throw the government budget out of kilter, and would place an even heavier tax burden on the population. This philosophy did not take into account that the increase in revenues coming from safety of transport, honest collection of fines and fees, and general lessening of robbery would almost pay for a police force capable of bringing such things to pass.

Sir Thomas de Veil was appointed to the Commission of the Peace for the county of Middlesex and the City of Westminster in 1729. De Veil was no more honest than any other magistrate, but he was much more ambitious than his contemporaries; he saw the office as a stepping stone to power, as well as wealth. He also enjoyed making people suffer, and used his natural inhumanity in the name of public service.

De Veil had made a careful study of the powers of the office before becoming a magistrate, and thus he was able to outwit the criminal's attorneys. Using thief-takers and informers, he was the first London magistrate of the century to make a serious attempt to suppress crime. He made sure that his efforts came to the notice of the government, by detailing his accomplishments when petitioning for rewards and reimbursement for expenses. These funds were paid without public notice from the Secret Service Fund. If the Government had openly paid a magistrate, even in compensation for injuries, it might have been accused of a breach of the Constitution.

In 1738, de Veil moved into Bow Street, Covent Garden. He was now a Justice of the Peace for the City of Westminster, and four counties besides. He was, in fact, the first Chief of Police of the Metropolis of London. He was diligent in his prosecution of crime, but in addition to being rewarded for this diligence with a secret salary, de Veil was still a trading justice. He boasted to Henry Fielding of having made £1000 a year in his job - much more than could be accounted for by fees and fines.

De Veil made valiant attempts, and suffered his greatest defeats, in his almost single-handed efforts to enforce the several Gin Acts passed in attempts to lower the fantastic consumption of that liquor. The Acts of 1729 and 1736 had been, according to Pringle, "bold, drastic, and useless. The Gin Act of 1743 was weak, cowardly, and extremely sensible. It accepted the evil of gin-drinking as a fact, and proposed that, as it could not be abolished, the best plan was to put it under control and make it respectable - and profitable too." Gradual tightening of licensing, and slow increases in duties on the distilling of gin, following the Act made a slow decrease in the consumption of gin. And as the consumption of gin dropped, so did the crime rate.

Sir Thomas de Veil was a Commissioner without police, and Henry Fielding began the police. Henry and his half-brother John were, according to Trevelyan's Illustrated English Social History, "the best magistrates London had in that century," and their Bow Street Runners were the closest thing England had to a police force prior to 1829.

Fielding is regarded by many as the father of the English novel, and as one of England's greater dramatists. His plays lampooned officialdom, as well as satirizing Eighteenth Century British society in general, and when the

Licensing Act of 1737 gave the Government the power to censor plays, allowing only those meeting with approval to be performed, Fielding's career in drama was ruined. He entered the Middle Temple and read for the Bar, but was not a particularly successful lawyer; his expenses always exceeded his income, and he was forced to do literary hack-work to keep out of debt. It is very probable that his novels extend from this.

In 1748, Fielding was forced to appeal to his friend Lord Lyttelton to procure a job for him. He was offered, and accepted the appointment to the commission of the peace for Westminster, and the late de Veil's house in Bow Street. It was expected that his money worries were over, for trading-justices were never poor. But Fielding was honest, remained poor, and found his true vocation as a reformer. Pringle describes him thus: "From the beginning Fielding set himself two tasks: first to stamp out existing crime, and then to prevent fresh outbreaks in the future. For these aims to be achieved he considered three things were necessary: the active co-operation of the public, a stronger police, and the removal of the causes of crime and conditions in which it flourished. He spent his five years at Bow Street in pursuit of these ends".

Fielding began to appeal to the public in the press with unheard-of ideas; he exhorted robbed persons to report their losses, with descriptions of the criminals, etc. to himself in Bow Street. In addition, Fielding began to issue public reports, and he wrote pamphlets about crime and his work of policing the metropolis.

The Fieldings made some attempt to build a force of "thief-takers"; able-bodied, intelligent, trained constables. The terms of service for parish-constables made their task all the harder, but eventually they were able to build up a stable force of half-a-dozen constables and ex-constables (headed by the extremely able Saunders Welch), and the Bow Street Runners took form. The Runners were often employed for detective work in unlocking criminal cases, and they would respond to a hue and cry raised following a crime committed in London. Henry had no authority to form this small force - they would have been charged with a breach of the Constitution had the Runners been less secret than they were.

The Fieldings had to fight for every cent they were able to obtain for their men. The money was secretly paid - out of the Secret Service Fund, once again - and the amounts always varied, as did the length of time for which it had to last. The King's mistresses were paid their "pensions" from the same Secret Service Fund.

Henry Fielding's health deteriorated steadily under the strain of his tasks (and the burden of his finances), and he was persuaded to turn his duties over to John, and take a sea voyage in an attempt to regain his health. This failed, however, for he died in Lisbon, Portugal, in October of 1754. John Fielding carried on, filling out the details of Henry's ideas and concepts, and widening the scope of his office when and wherever possible.

Sir John established the "Quarterly Pursuit" and the "Weekly Extraordinary Pursuit", which contained reports of robberies and other crimes. These notices were sent all over England to magistrates and constables, to be posted on the board called Hue and Cry, so as to aid in tracking down criminals and obtaining evidence to be used in prosecution.

Foot and Horse Patrols were established, and John was able to get enough money from the Government to keep them going long enough for results of their presence to be felt. As soon as the crime rate dropped, however, it was felt that the money spent to maintain these patrols was no longer needed, and it would be withdrawn. So the crime rate would rise again when the Patrols were discontinued. It was not until after Sir John Fielding's death in 1780, that a permanent Foot Patrol was established, and a uniformed police only came into being with the establishment of the Horse Patrol, in 1805.

John Fielding was also instrumental in founding charities to aid in keeping children from being forced into a life of crime. He helped reformed criminals "go straight", and even applied his wits to trying to solve the labor problem that threatened to mar the peace of London. The fact that he was totally blind only seemed to spur him on to greater efforts toward the removal of crime and the conditions where it flourished.

In June of 1780, a series of riots protesting the Catholic Relief Act of 1778 (known as the Gordon Riots, for Lord George Gordon, who was believed to have been the instigator of them) rendered London lawless. For four days the Mob ruled London, and it looked as if the Fieldings' work had been in vain. Newgate Prison was burned, the Bow Street offices were wrecked (and much of the Fieldings' papers were destroyed), and finally some 20,000 troops had to be called out to dispell the mob. But Englishmen were slowly learning the price of lawlessness.

After John Fielding's death, the honesty and integrity which they had built into Bow Street lapsed, and gradually corruption crept in. Eventually, in 1839, this corruption was the cause of the disruption of the Runners, and the closing of the Bow Street offices - ten years after the establishment of the Metropolitan Police.

In June, 1792, a "Middlesex Justices Bill" was passed, establishing seven public offices in the Metropolis. Each office had three full-time, salaried magistrates. In addition, each office was to have a small force (usually six) of paid police officers. Although temporary at first, these were made permanent when the Act was extended in 1812. One of these new magistrates was a man named Patrick Colquhoun.

Colquhoun became known as "the Father of the Soup Kitchen", for his work with the poor, but he gave most of his attention to policing the Metropolis. He greatly publicized police problems, and his Treatise on the Police of the Metropolis (which went through seven editions in ten years) is considered a masterpiece of its kind. Unfortunately, much of Colquhoun's thinking on the matter of effective police remained on paper; a bill containing most of his ideas on the matter was being considered when a sudden change of Governments in 1801 sent it into limbo.

The unrest which followed the end of the Napoleonic Wars was heightened by a severe depression, and re-emphasized the need for an effective method of policing London and the countryside. Various committees investigated the matter, and a number of changes were made from time to time to broaden the authority of the existing police.

It was not until April 15, 1829, that Sir Robert Peel proposed the abandonment of an entire police system, and its supersession by one of a kind this country has never known. On July 19, 1829, the Metropolitan Police Bill received the Royal Assent. Police authority for the Metropolis was in the hands of the Home Secretary (Peel), and he lost no time in selecting two Commissioners of the Metropolitan Police; Colonel Sir Charles Rowan, and Sir

Richard Mayne were Peel's happy selections for the first Commissioners.

Rowan and Mayne worked well as a team, and it was they who gave form and substance to the force which policed London - and thence England - from that day. They borrowed much from Bow Street and its successors; the new police were unarmed except for their truncheons, and much of the technique of crime detection and prevention which is peculiar to the British police can be traced to the Fieldings. The new Commissioners were possessed of the same kind of honesty as were Henry and John Fielding, and they set a standard of integrity at the top that has been faithfully kept ever since. There cannot be many other capitals in the world that have never had a corrupt Chief of Police.

The honesty and idealism of the Fieldings, Colquhoun and others, bore fruit at last in Peel's Act, and in the work of Rowan and Mayne. But the actions of those who opposed the establishment of an effective police for so very long had a positive effect, also. Without this long, tenacious opposition, the police might have come in Cromwell's time, and - even if coming when they did - they might have been very much more on the old Continental pattern. The English, and the world, owe much to the Fieldings, Colquhoun, Peel, Rowan and Mayne, but the fact that England is not a police-state today might better be owed to the opponents of these men.

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