

in his favour or against him, to make such inquiry, and the witnesses who can prove or disprove the truth of the statement ought to be taken before the Magistrates when the accused is examined; and, if an accused person desires to call witnesses, the police should assist him to the best of their power.

I cannot too strongly recommend every constable, however good he may fancy his memory to be, to write down, *word for word*, every syllable of every conversation in which an accused has taken a part, and of every statement made to him by an accused person, and to have that written memorandum with him at the trial.

The last but most important duty I would enjoin upon you is on every occasion "SPEAK THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH, AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH." Let no considerations, no anxiety to appear of importance in a case, no desire to procure a conviction or an acquittal, no temptation of any sort, induce you ever to swerve one hair's breadth from the truth—the bare, plain, simple truth. Never exaggerate, or, in repeating a conversation or statement, add a tone or colour to it. Exaggeration is often even more dangerous than direct falsehood, for it is an addition of a false colour to truth; it is something more than the truth, and it is most dangerous, because it is difficult to detect and separate that which is exaggeration from that which is strictly true; and a man who exaggerates is very apt to be led on to say that which he knows to be false. On the other hand, suppress no part of a conversation or statement, nor any tone or action which accompanies it, for everything you suppress is short of the whole truth. Remember always what reliance is of necessity placed in Courts of justice upon the testimony of policemen, and bear constantly in mind that, in many cases, the fate of an accused man—which means his life or his liberty—depends upon that testimony; and seriously reflect how fearful a thing it is for a man to be convicted and put to death, or condemned to penal servitude or imprisonment upon false testimony. Remember, also, when you are giving evidence, that you are not the person appointed to determine the guilt or the innocence of a person on his trial, nor have you any right to express an opinion upon the subject. Your duty is a very simple and easy one, namely, to tell the Court all you know. The responsibility of the verdict, whether it be guilty or not guilty, rests entirely with the jury or the Magistrate (if the case is tried in a Police Court), and they have a right to expect from you everything within your knowledge to enable them to form a just conclusion. It is right I should tell you that, willfully to tell a falsehood, or pervert the truth in a Court of justice, is PERJURY; and you all know perjury is a crime punishable with seven years' penal servitude; and your own common-sense will tell you that when perjury is committed by an officer of justice he deserves and ought to receive a very severe sentence. Resolve, then, on every occasion to tell the plain, unbiassed, unvarnished truth in all things, even though it may for a moment expose you to censure or mortification, or defeat the object or expectations of those by whom you are called as a witness. Depend upon it, such censure or mortification will be as nothing compared to the character you will earn for yourself as a truthful, reliable man, whose word can always be implicitly depended upon, and the very mortification you endure will be a useful warning to you to avoid in the future the error you have candidly confessed.

I could write a good deal more on the subjects I have touched, but then my address to you would be too long for this little work, which is intended for your guide, and wherein you will find your duties upon various occasions more fully defined. I have only endeavoured, in a few friendly sentences, to point out to you a line of conduct, the steady adoption of which will enable every man in the Police Service to feel that he is on the high road to all that he can desire, having regard to the important and very responsible calling he has selected for himself.

5th June, 1882.

H. HAWKINS.

### Extract from New Zealand Gazette.

(From Gazette, 1883, page 1630.)

*Sittings of the Supreme Court in the Northern Judicial District.*

WE, three Judges of the Supreme Court of New Zealand, in pursuance of the powers vested in us by "The Supreme Court Act, 1882," hereby make the following rules respecting the places and times for holding sittings of the Supreme Court and sittings in Chambers, in the Northern Judicial District of New Zealand, for the year 1884:—

Sittings for the trial of Criminal cases will be held at the Courthouse, Auckland, to commence on the following days, at 11 a.m. :—

Monday, 7th January.  
Tuesday, 1st April.  
Tuesday, 1st July.  
Wednesday, 1st October.

Sittings for the trial of Criminal and Civil cases, and of causes under the Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Act, will be held at the Courthouse, New Plymouth, to commence on the following days at 10.30 a.m. :—

Thursday, 1st May.  
Thursday, 30th October.

If any of the days above appointed for sittings should be a public holiday, the sittings will commence on the day after the day so appointed.

Given under our hands this eighth day of November, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-three.

JAMES PRENDERGAST.  
C. W. RICHMOND.  
THOMAS B. GILLIES.

### Naval Deserters.

THE authorities of the Admiralty have notified that the number of desertions from Her Majesty's ships on the Australian Station has of late been so great as to demand more than ordinary exertions to check the evil. The police are now directed to give special attention to this subject, using the utmost vigilance in tracing men who have already deserted, and exerting themselves in every possible way to prevent intending deserters from escaping from any of Her Majesty's ships that may hereafter visit New Zealand ports. Persons suspected of harbouring deserters must be carefully watched, and, if detected, rigorously prosecuted. The cost of escorting any apprehended deserter to the nearest New Zealand port will in future be defrayed out of colonial funds.

In addition to the reward of £5 offered by the Colonial Government (see *New Zealand Gazette* No. 6, dated the 29th January, 1870), a reward of £3 is offered by the Imperial Government for the arrest of each deserter.

The following copy of a letter from the Admiralty to the Colonial Office on the above subject, and a descriptive return of the deserters, are published for general information:—

THE ADMIRALTY TO THE COLONIAL OFFICE.

18th July, 1883.

SIR,—My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having had under their consideration a report from the Commodore in Australia with reference to the very serious increase in the number of desertions of seamen and marines from Her Majesty's ships on that station, I am commanded by their Lordships to request you will point out to the Secretary of State for the Colonies that, unless there should shortly be some considerable diminution of this evil, it will be difficult for them, with a due regard to the public interests, to continue to place a ship of the class of the "Nelson" on the station.

2. In the year 1882 there were no less than 161 desertions from H.M.S. "Nelson," of whom 71 deserted at Sydney, 1 at Hobart, 6 at Wellington, 21 at Auckland, 35 at Melbourne, and 27 at Adelaide. Only 15 of the above were arrested, of whom 4 again deserted.

In H.M.S. "Diamond," between March, 1882, and April, 1883, there were 52 desertions, of whom 32 deserted at Sydney, 2 at Albany, 4 at Port Lyttelton, 1 at Wellington, and 13 at Auckland. Nine were arrested, of whom 3 again deserted.

In H.M.S. "Espiegle," between April, 1882, and April, 1883, there were 25 desertions, of whom 22 deserted at Sydney, and 3 at Adelaide. One only was arrested.

The increase in the number of desertions is, in the opinion of the Commodore and of the commanding officers of several of the ships of the Australian Squadron, attributable, among other causes, to the facilities offered to deserters for escaping capture, on account of the insufficient number of police and the disinclination of the colonists to aid in the capture of deserters.

To remedy this as far as possible, My Lords propose to increase the naval police in the squadron, a portion of whom will be specially detailed for looking after deserters, and to offer large rewards for the apprehension of deserters.

I am to request you will move Lord Derby to represent the state of the case to the various Australian and New Zealand Governments, pointing out to them the great importance of repressing desertion, and requesting them to take all such measures as they properly can to co-operate with the Commodore in checking the evil and apprehending deserters. And in this view My Lords would suggest that the police in the several colonies, and especially the water police at Sydney, might be increased; that some of these police might be specially told off to act in conjunction with the additional naval police; that more stringent laws for the punishment of those who entice men to desert, and who harbour deserters, might be enacted; and that the Colonial Governments, as well as the naval authorities, offer rewards for the capture of deserters.

I have, &c.,

G. TRYON.