

It was equally impossible to do the plainest right and to undo the plainest wrong without the express authority of the Circumlocution Office.

If another Gunpowder Plot had been discovered half an hour before the lighting of the match, nobody would have been justified in saving the parliament until there had been half a score of boards, half a bushel of minutes and a family-vault full of ungrammatical correspondence, on the part of the Circumlocution Office.