

Evening Telegraph

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1864.

GOD SAVE THE KING!

BY GEORGE W. WELLS.

Washed in the blood of the brave and the bleeding...
Shed from the altar of innocent lives...
Burning with steel fire, he never ceasing...
Flash in the midst of his agony...

THE JUDGES OF ENGLAND.

We are about to attempt a sketch of the Judges of England, and we are reluctantly compelled to begin with the admission that they do not stand so high in the popular estimate, nor occupy a position of the same political and social importance, as in the former time.

Now, looking round to see that not merely the legal profession, but the learned professions individually and collectively have suffered in one sense from the diffusion of knowledge, and the introduction of the sciences of the law, and the introduction of the sciences of the law, and the introduction of the sciences of the law...

Again, the distinctive dress was not entirely given up till a much later period. Sir James Allen Park stuck to the square-cut coat, the black breeches and stockings, to his dying day; and he might have been shaking his head reproachfully, when told of the appearance of a dandified colleague, his equal or superior in every other respect, who had adopted the coat and carrying a cravat, a tail, in the court of law.

At present, the judges are scattered over all the most fashionable quarters of the metropolis; they frequent clubs; they live, dress, and visit like other people; and some of them affect the manners of men of the world, or even occasionally of men of letters and pleasure-loving.

Lord Glencive used to say that he liked dining in company with lawyers, because the chances were some good topic would be rationally discussed; and Sir Walter Scott sets down in his diary, in 1828:—"We dined at Richardson's with the Chief Baron of England and Scotland (Sir William Alexander and Sir Samuel Shepherd), Lord Crough, the one being a Scotchman and the other an Englishman—far the pleasantest day we have had. I suppose I am partial; but I think the lawyers that the bishops, and the bishops the wits."

One such judge was the Chancellor Lord Hardwick, himself the son of a Dover attorney; he was placed in the office of an eminent London attorney, who boasted of having had among his clerks or pupils, and about a year since, Lord Chief Justice of England; another, ambassador at Constantinople and a distinguished author; the third, a leading statesman and orator, a cabinet minister, and one of the first writers of the age.

Cockburn, whose father, Colonel Cockburn, was long minister of one of the smaller embassies, had the advantage of speaking two or three foreign languages with facility—a plausible excuse for desisting from reading as well as an added zest to the enjoyments and consequent allurements of society. It may be doubted whether he ever took to the serious and sustained study

of the law at any period. His marvellous rapidity of perception, his instinctive discovery and vigorous grasp of the precise knowledge required in the law, his power of penetrating to the principles and generalizing the facts of the cases, his vastness of application and book-learning, but prevented the outer world from even suspecting him of such a vocation. We know no one comparable to him in this respect, except Lord Derby, in a debate on a subject of which he knew little or nothing—one involving the doctrines of political economy, for example; and his knowledge has been compared by a competent critic to Mrs. Pritchard, of whom Johnson said that, admirably as she acted "Mad Mad Mad," she never read the play through, nor ever knew any part but her own. Best, afterwards Lord Wynford, whose learning (such as it was) was also picked up at her feet, and as he wasted it, he was celebrated for the clarity of his views and the general history of his education. One of his colleagues in the Queen's (then King's) Bench was Holroyd, an old school pleader saturated with law, whose name of delivery made his profoundly learned judgments accessible to all, except the judges who set text to him. That fortunate neighbor was best, who might be seen carefully dotting down authority after authority, which, when his turn came, assumed a shape as different from that in which they had first been rummaged and jumbled, as the tempering edibles which came out of one end of the sausage-making machine, recorded in "Pickwick," differed from the rude and somewhat heterogeneous material thrown in at the other. Cockburn was never driven to such an expedient. On the contrary, he was the very reverse—so proud that he was worth his salt—he concluded their arguments, he is armed at all points and ready to give judgment. At the bar, he could commonly have followed, with very minute accuracy, the proceedings of any lawyer.

"When I am for the plaintiff, I am obliged to read my brief, or most of it; when I am for the defendant, I can pick up the facts from my opponent's brief, then, despite of some early recklessness, soon made a reputation, became a leader at seasons, and compelled the established leaders on his circuit (the West) to look about them. They were formidable competitors, and he was not inferior to any of them. There were three classes of cases in which he showed prominent cases in which the indignation of justice was to be roused or his feelings were to be touched. Then his rich mellow voice and his carefully prepared and carefully delivered dramatic action told to admiration. He was strong in conspiracy, happy in seduction, grand in immorality, and his pathos was a masterpiece in its line. Another eminently successful effort, and to the highest walk of advocacy, was his speech for Macdonald, the madman who shot Mr. Drummond by mistake for Sir Robert Peel. Cockburn's definition of legal malice was a masterpiece of its kind, and nothing could be happier or finer than the manner in which he imperceptibly shaded down the popular horror and indignation at the crime into pity and mercy for the perpetrator.

When he was called to the bar, he was a golden harvest, was presented by the committee, rooms of the Houses of Parliament, particularly in the case of the Duke of Wellington, who was looking for a supporter who could defend their policy in the local point of view. The point of view from which it had been more vigorously assailed. They fixed upon Cockburn, who, duly instructed, undertook the case, and made one of those rattling and telling speeches with which he distinguished himself in the House of Commons. In this instance, he resembled a jury, except in impartiality; and Lord Palmerston's position was closely analogous to that of the defendant in an action for trespass and extortion. The foreign secretary was not the man to forget a service of this kind.

Fastidious critics thought that the style of oratory thus opportunely and effectively brought into play, was not the style of a statesman; but no one denied that a forensic debater had rarely, capable of rendering good service to his party either in an official or unofficial capacity. He became successively solicitor-general and attorney-general, and, on the 10th of July, 1856, he was created Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench.

When Sir R. Rolfe (Lord Cranworth), an equity lawyer, was made a baron of the exchequer, it was said that he was a baron of the law, and he might have been shaking his head reproachfully, when told of the appearance of a dandified colleague, his equal or superior in every other respect, who had adopted the coat and carrying a cravat, a tail, in the court of law.

When the late Lord Campbell exercised his undoubted prerogative as lord chancellor in naming Mr. Rolfe to the office of solicitor-general, he was not the man to forget a service of this kind. The Queen's Bench—Chief Justice Cockburn, Pease, Judges: Crompton, Blackburn, Mellor, Byles, and Keating.

The Exchequer—Chief Baron, Pollock, Fulnes-Barons: Martin, James, Channell, and Pigott. Lord Chief Justice of England, Sir Alexander Cockburn, a baronet by descent, and a member of a family which has furnished an immense number of illustrious names, will certainly not be cited as a judge whose title and rank he might prove proud of, but he was admitted at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, and took his degree in civil law—an easy mode of graduating, which suited his careless and pleasure-loving disposition.

One such judge was the Chancellor Lord Hardwick, himself the son of a Dover attorney; he was placed in the office of an eminent London attorney, who boasted of having had among his clerks or pupils, and about a year since, Lord Chief Justice of England; another, ambassador at Constantinople and a distinguished author; the third, a leading statesman and orator, a cabinet minister, and one of the first writers of the age.

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WILCOX & GIBBS' Sewing Machines. No. 715 CHESTNUT St., Philada.

GROVER & BAKER'S HIGHEST PREMIUM SEWING MACHINES. No. 720 CHESTNUT Street.

FURNITURE. CHEAPEST AND BEST. Parlor Suits, Bed-room and Chamber Suits, Dining-Room Suits, Kitchen Furniture, Library and Office Furniture, Household Furniture.

GOULD & CO'S. Union Furniture Depot, 11-12th St. N. E. COR. BEYOND AND RACE STS.

CHARLES E. CLARK'S BEDDING WAREHOUSE. At No. 16 N. ELEVENTH STREET.

THOMPSON'S LONDON KITCHEN. 200 Pine Street, Philadelphia.

WILLIAM CHAMPLIN, CARPENTER AND BUILDER. No. 12 HATTON PLACE, between Cherry and Race.

GEORGE FLOWMAN, CARPENTER AND BUILDER. No. 223 CATER STREET, and No. 141 BOCI STREET.

CLERK'S OFFICE, COMMON COUNCIL. PHILADELPHIA, December 2, 1864.

AN ORDINANCE. CREATING A LOAN TO PAY CERTAIN DEFICIENCIES OF THE YEAR 1864.

RESOLUTION. To publish a notice in the City of Philadelphia.

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PROPOSALS. QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE. PHILADELPHIA, December 2, 1864.

QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE, TWELFTH AND CHESTNUT STS. PHILADELPHIA, December 2, 1864.

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