

time confined himself to conveyancing. The late Vice-Chancellor Malins, in whose chambers he read, and who is said never to have quite forgiven his pupil for not making him a Lord Justice, probably disabbed him of this want of confidence so far as to induce him to try his fortune at the bar. Certain it is that when he once had briefs he was never without them; for, as he himself described his early beginnings, he came from Trinity College to London without a friend. Mr. Gregory, of Bedford Row, gave him his first brief, and never afterwards deserted him. Lord Cairns was one of the few judges not being Chief Justices who have taken a peerage while on the bench; but even his success at the bar did not leave him rich enough to accept it, and he would have rejected it but for the fact that a rich relative came forward and endowed his peerage for him.

Lord Cairns cannot be said to have been a popular Lord Chancellor. His manner was not sympathetic, and he was a sincere professor of a gloomy religion which he introduced even into his social entertainments. Like Lord Hatherley and his political rival, Lord Selborne, he taught in the Sunday school. He interested himself in benevolent projects, and sometimes took the chair at Exeter Hall. Perhaps his good nature in these matters was unduly trespassed upon on one occasion when an enterprising promoter of a charity distributed circulars—particularly in the neighbourhood of Lincoln's Inn, the Temple and Bedford Row—with the Lord Chancellor's autograph on the corner of the envelope and his crest on the seal. The only weakness of which Lord Cairns has been accused was that he was "justly vain" of the spotlessness of his tie and bands in Court, and of the "nice conduct" of the flower in his button-hole, when in the attire, to use the words of his political chief, "which denotes festivity." During his first brief tenure of the woolsack in 1868 he appointed Vice-Chancellor Giffard, Mr. Justice Hayes, Mr. Justice Brett (now the Master of the Rolls), and Baron Cleasby as judges, the three last being created under a new Act, with a view to election petitions; and from 1874 to 1880 he appointed Mr. Justice Archibald, Mr. Justice Field, Mr. Justice (now Lord

Justice) Lindley, Baron Huddleston, Mr. Justice Manisty, Mr. Justice Hawkins, Mr. Justice Lopes, Mr. Justice (now Lord Justice) Fry, Mr. Justice Stephen, and Mr. Justice (now Lord Justice) Bowen. He also advised the Prime Minister in the appointment of Lords Justices Baggallay, Cotton, and Thesiger. In taking part in the appointment of the brilliant son of Lord Chelmsford, whose services were too soon lost to the bench, Lord Cairns was able to some extent to heal the resentment caused by his having supplanted Lord Chelmsford in 1868, when Disraeli succeeded Lord Derby as Prime Minister. Lord Chelmsford was then supposed to have said that he was dismissed in a manner in which a gentleman would not discharge his butler. *Punch* at the time endeavoured to soften the blow with the joke that Disraeli had erected Cairns over Lord Chelmsford in honour of the ex-Chancellor. The sacrifice made to obtain Lord Cairns' services shows how highly they were esteemed by Mr. Disraeli. In one important branch of the duties of a chancellor—namely, the choice of County Court judges—Lord Cairns hardly showed the same happy inspiration as his party leader in the choice of his subordinates. Some of these appointments were much criticised. Of those which were criticised it may be said of some at least that the result has not justified the criticism. In another important branch of the duties of a Chancellor Lord Cairns left his mark permanently on the legislation of the country. The only Act to which his name became actually attached was an Act allowing Chancery judges to give damages in lieu of an injunction or specific performance, which has met the fate of repeal by a Statute Law Revision Act. On a small scale it anticipated the Judicature Acts, a series of statutes in which Lord Cairns had a very great share, having been chairman of the Judicature Commission, which reported in 1869, and Chancellor when the Acts first came into operation. The chief point in the Judicature Acts in which his influence was felt was the restoration of the House of Lords as the final Court of Appeal, from which position it had been displaced by Lord Selborne's Judicature Act of 1873. In making this alteration Lord Cairns forgot to alter Lord