

LAWYERS IN PARLIAMENT—ITEMS.

Sir J. Parker, 1710 (became Lord Maclesfield); Sir John Pratt (grandfather of Lord Camden), Lord Raymond, 1718; Lord Chief Justice Lee, Ryder (father of Lord Harrowby), Lord Chief Justices Willes and Wilmot; Lord Mansfield, Lord Kenyon, Lord Wynford, Lord Ellenborough, Lord Tenterden, Lord Denman, Lord Campbell, and Sir Alexander Cockburn, the present Lord Chief Justice.

The members of the Judicial Bench and the Bar of the United Kingdom, through their great learning and independence, may be said to be the guardians of the rights and privileges of persons of every rank in the state. Hence, the law to be found in the statute book and the reports of the cases of Equity and Common Law Courts, comprises a system of jurisprudence more elaborate and extensive than that of any other country; nor can its completeness be appreciated until, when disputes and differences arise, the machinery for adjudicating on the rights of parties is required to be put in motion. *Law Times.*

Among the most striking careers of the time has been that of Judah P. Benjamin, who long represented Louisiana in the United States Senate, subsequently became the leading member of the Confederate Cabinet, and after the close of the war, removed his residence to London. He procured naturalization in England, and upon complying with the requisite conditions, began practice as a barrister. His progress has been so rapid that, although he has only been at the English bar five or six years, he has received the honor of "Queen's Counsel," and assumed the traditional "silk gown," thus taking his place among the upper grade of barristers. It is now intimated in some of the English papers that Mr. Benjamin is among the foremost in the line of those who are likely to be raised to the Bench within the next few years. It would be curious to see an ex-United States Senator, and an ex-Confederate Secretary of State, sitting beside Sir A. Cockburn on the Queen's Bench, with patched wig and ermined gown. Mr. Benjamin is a man of brilliant ability as an advocate, and was surpassed by very few as an orator when he sat in our national councils; his

speech on retiring from the Senate, just before the war, was one of thrilling eloquence, not soon to be forgotten by those who heard it.—*Pitts. Law Ad.*

Those gentlemen who are familiarly known as the great unpaid, have, in the ordinary course of things, abundant opportunities of straining their jurisdiction and sinning in various ways which suggest censure. Experience has taught that these offences must be dealt with lightly, so long as they do not work flagrant injustice. It is to a particularly small matter that we now direct the attention of our readers—small in itself, but indicating very clearly what we must be prepared for. At the last Quarter Sessions for Essex, a quick-witted magistrate announced that he had found out that all the editions of Burn's Justice of the Peace in use by the clerks to the petty sessional divisions were dated 1845, and he brought forward a motion, "That the last edition of Burn's Justice of the Peace be supplied to each petty sessional division of the county." The estimated cost was £96. The motion having been made, a Mr. Johnston rose and delivered himself of the following observations: "I am entirely opposed to this outrageous proposition, and I think after the late decision of the court it will not be seriously pressed. (Laughter.) What is the good of these musty law books? Let us decide the cases that come before us by the law of nature—(loud laughter)—and not give any attention to what quaint and stupid old people have written down in a long work which is to cost six guineas a volume. (Renewed laughter.) Another objection which I have is that no notice whatever has been given of the amount which will be required, and if they had known the amount that was proposed to be expended I am sure a number of magistrates from all parts of the county would have come down to oppose this resolution." How the learned editors of the last valuable edition of Burns will like to be called "quaint and stupid old people," we do not stop to inquire, but if Mr. Johnston is in the habit of deciding cases according to the law of nature, it occurs to us to suggest whether the Lord Chancellor might not deem it advisable to relieve him of the responsible