

ment from the bench ended his career. His best work was not done as a peer of Parliament, and his newspaper controversies with all sorts of people upon all sorts of subjects did not lend weight to his character as a hereditary legislator or a judicial peer. He remained to the last however a favorite with the profession, and his fame will endure among the best traditions of the law."

The *Solicitors' Journal* observes:—"The *Times* is right in saying that while there have been, and probably will be, even greater lawyers than Lord Bramwell, English law has never had, and perhaps never again will have, a representative cast in his unique mould. Absolute mastery of the common law, combined with a keen and subtle intellect, controlled by the most vigorous common sense, made up a personality seldom seen on our bench. And it may be added that never was a judge more popular with the legal profession. The reasons for this cannot be better expressed than they were by one who knew him well, and who, writing in this journal at the time of his retirement from the bench, said: 'No doubt those who knew him most can best appreciate the ascendancy of his personal qualities, but no one acquainted with the business of the courts can have failed to notice the unvarying candor with which he more than appreciated every argument raised before him which had even the semblance of reason in it, and rejected it only after having set it in a more persuasive form than the advocate; the depth and subtlety with which he tracked the fundamental principles, the practical results, and the legal analogies involved in the matters brought before him for decision; the frankness with which he admitted ignorance and accepted information on points where a mind less sure of itself might be tempted to affect knowledge; the moral vigor and broad good sense with which he pushed aside all fringe, subterfuge and evasion; and, perhaps above all, the mingled strength and kindness with which he administered the difficult and anxious duties of a criminal judge.' A judicial career of five and twenty years, in which these qualities were displayed, sufficiently explains the profound respect in which Lord Bramwell was held by every lawyer."