

obtained unbounded popularity at that time. From that period until the Reform crisis of 1830 Mr. Brougham was the practical leader of the opposition in the House of Commons, and distinguished himself as a debater, and as the constant advocate of legal and social improvement. He at the same time followed his profession as a barrister, having a large practice, and leading numerous remarkable cases against Sir James Scarlett, both in London and on the Northern Circuit, and that for a considerable time without the professional advantage of a silk gown, which was denied him by George IV. on account of his adherence to Queen Caroline. In the struggle for Catholic Emancipation he bore a distinguished part. On the death of George IV. he was member for Knaresborough; and at the general election which ensued he was returned to Parliament as one of the members for the county of York. On the resignation of the Duke of Wellington—being then the acknowledged, and, so to speak, official, leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons—he was, in the course of the formation of Lord Grey's Government, first offered the subordinate office of Attorney-General, which he indignantly refused, and then that of Master of the Rolls, which was to be vacated by the promotion of Sir John Leach to the Chancellorship. At last, however, it was deemed advisable to give Mr. Brougham the Great Seal and a peerage. From that time to 1834 he continued in the office of Lord Chancellor, signaling himself by his energy and ability in the passing of the Reform Bill, the Poor-law Bill, and making vigorous efforts at law reform. In that year, on the resignation of Lord Grey, and the reconstruction of the Whig Government under Lord Melbourne, he was—for some cause still involved in the impenetrable mysteries of political intrigue—not included in the Ministerial arrangements, although it was believed that he would not have objected to have followed the example of Lord Camden and other ex-Chancellors and taken a nominal office in the Cabinet like that of Lord Privy Seal. From that time it cannot be

denied that Lord Brougham has been little better than a free lance in politics. A very Ishmaelite in the Legislature, his hand has been against every man at times; but it is equally true that of late years he has rather adopted an adulatory tone, and, beginning with his famous oration in praise of the Duke of Wellington at a banquet given to that noble Duke, some years ago at Dover, he has found opportunities of panegyrising most of the public men of the day of all parties. His power of labour and of production in all the various departments of knowledge and action in which he has been engaged have been immense. As an orator he could speak longer, louder, more energetically, and more vigorously than any man of his time. As a working politician member of Parliament, and lawyer, he could do more work than three other men put together. He has been known to go without sleep for several nights, and to possess the happy faculty of choosing the fitting time to sleep without a check for as many consecutive hours as were sufficient to restore his strength. As a Judge in the Court of Chancery, by his enduring and protracted sittings, he wore out the best-trained and most drudge-like practitioners before him. His faculty for composition has been enormous. There are few subjects in ethics, politics, and science on which he has not written. Again, he took a prominent part in the movement originated by Dr. Birkbeck for establishing mechanics' institutes; he was the principal founder of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, composed several treatises for the series of works published by the society, as well as articles in the "Penny Magazine," and "Penny Cyclopædia." He edited and expanded Paley's "Natural Theology," has published "The Lives of the Statesmen of the Reign of George III.," three or four volumes on political philosophy, besides a volume of "Speeches at the Bar and in the Senate." In short, in attempting to sketch with necessary brevity and conciseness his varied life and multifarious acquirements and character, one is literally bewildered with the abundance of the