

make free with his name. They do this on the assumption that when a judge's term of service has expired he is anxious to wipe the dust of the law courts from his feet, and retire to the enjoyment of his well-earned pension. This is not by any means the rule, and indeed, excepting in cases of old age or failing health, judges stick to their posts long after they have "served their time." The life of a judge must be an agreeable one, as we rarely hear of one retiring, except under urgent physical circumstances, until he can do so full of honors.

A judge is entitled to retire on a pension after a service of fifteen years. Five members of the High Court of Judicature have served that time and are entitled to the pension. They are Sir James Hannen (President of the Probate, Divorce and Admiralty Division); Lord Esher (Master of the Rolls); Mr. Justice Denman, Baron Pollock and Lord Chief Justice Coleridge. Hence we may expect the usual paragraphs to go the round of the London papers during the next fortnight, on the possibility or the probability of some of these gentlemen vacating their distinguished posts.

Sir James Hannen was appointed twenty-one and a half years ago. He has untied more matrimonial knots than any man in Great Britain, but he will be more conspicuously mentioned in history in connection with the Parnell commission. As this inquiry is adjourned over to the next sittings, it is clear that Sir James does not contemplate immediate retirement. The President's salary is no more than that of his coadjutor, Mr. Justice Butt, or any of the common-law judges.

Lord Esher was promoted from the common-law side of the courts to the virtual presidency of the Appeal Court. He attains his majority this month. Of a spirited temperament, Lord Esher sometimes gets a little impatient with vacillating counsel. He has a large development of the humorous faculty, possesses keen perspicacity and legal acumen, has an intuitive grasp of technique, and a splendid physique. In his youthful days he was a noted athlete. He was famous for his skill in rowing, and between 1840 and 1845 he was thrice a member of the Cambridge

crew. He stands six feet in his stockings, is in robust health, and the rumor which yesterday found its way into some papers is but idle conjecture. As Master of the Rolls he draws £6,000 a year.

Next to Lord Coleridge Mr. Justice Denman is senior *puiaté* judge. His health has not been of the best lately. He is in his seventieth year, and earned his retiring allowance in October two years ago. Baron Pollock is sixty-six, and was entitled to retire last January twelvemonth. He is not quite so good of hearing as he used to be. If there are any vacancies during the ensuing Long Vacation caused by the retirement of full-service judges, one or both of the last-named will disappear from the list.

Lord Coleridge draws the highest salary among what may be called the regular judges, his services being appraised at £8,000 a year. For forty years Lord Coleridge has been the political friend and admirer of Mr. Gladstone, with whose Home Rule proposition he is in hearty accord. He is a fearless, intrepid, conscientious judge. He only sat in Parliament eight years—viz, 1865 to 1873—but in that short time he successfully graduated through the solicitor-general and attorney-generalships. In 1873 he declined the mastership of the rolls, but in the same year was appointed Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas on the death of Sir William Bovill; and nine years ago he succeeded Sir Alexander Cockburn as Lord Chief Justice of England.

In February next Mr. Justice Field will be entitled to leave the bench, and as he is exceedingly deaf, he will probably avail himself of his pension at an early date. If you met Sir William Ventris Field in the Strand, you would hardly think that the light step and the jaunty air belonged to a man who six years ago attained the "allotted span." Sir William is very jealous of the honor of solicitors. He was articulated to a firm of solicitors himself in the '30's, and later on was a member of the firm of Thompson, Debenham & Field.

Baron Huddleston, who received a judgeship in the same year as Mr. Justice Field, has been on the sick list for some months, and several more or less veracious statements