

## GENERAL NOTES.

SIR HENRY JAMES.—We congratulate Sir Henry James most cordially, and yet not without a certain sense of pain, on his accession to the peerage as Lord Aylestone of Hereford, and his promotion to the Chancellorship of the Duchy of Lancaster. The Bar will be the poorer for his loss, and, without any disparagement of, or reflection upon, the very able lawyer and politician who has once more ascended the woolsack, it may be permissible to regret that Sir Henry James' supreme act of self-sacrifice in 1886 in refusing the Chancellorship because of his views on the subject of Home Rule has not, in the whirligig of political fortune, been rewarded at the last by the attainment of the legitimate object of every lawyer's ambition. But Sir Henry James has his reward in the esteem and admiration of every member of the profession which he adorned. By accepting the Chancellorship of the Duchy of Lancaster and a peerage Sir Henry James has brought to a close a professional career of great eminence and long duration. The son of a surgeon at Hereford, he was born in 1828, and was educated at Cheltenham. He was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple in 1852, his success as a student forming a fitting prelude to his prosperous career in the Courts. The forensic arena in which he won his spurs was the Mayor's Court, but it was not long before he established a reputation in the Courts at Westminster. In 1867 he was appointed 'Postman' in the Court of Exchequer, a position which derived its value from the precedence of its occupant in reference to motions, and its name from the place in the Court in which he sat. Within seventeen years of being called to the Bar he was added to the ranks of Her Majesty's Counsel, and the same year he obtained a seat in the House of Commons as the member for Taunton—the constituency he continued to represent until 1885, when he was returned by the electors of Bury. In September, 1873, he was appointed Solicitor-General; two months later he was promoted to the office of Attorney-General, which he held for four months. When Mr. Gladstone returned to power in 1880 Sir Henry James again became first law officer of the Crown, and identified his name with the passing of the Corrupt Practices Act. He succeeded Sir Charles Hall as Attorney-General to the Prince of Wales, and has been chairman of the representative body of the Bar.—*Law Journal (London)*.