

Serjeant Parry's talent lay in declamation and in appeal to the feelings which came from his own heart; the characteristics of Serjeant Ballantine, though less conspicuous, were rarer, and had an original flavour of their own. Serjeant Ballantine was not an actor who pretended to feel what he did not, but one who pretended to be much inferior to himself. This appeared in the robing room and at the club, for the serjeant could not be so cynically wicked as he ingenuously professed. In Court it was the serjeant's way to lie low. When he examined a witness, he would assume an expression of vacuity which disarmed opposition. With a drawl and a stutter he would put questions of so apparently artless a kind that witnesses had not the heart to deny a gentleman who was probably doing his best, however stupid he was. In this power of drawing out witnesses he was something like the late Sir John Holker, but Sir John's heavy manner was natural, while that of Serjeant Ballantine was assumed, although so inveterately as almost to be a part of himself. The initiated could see, by a little jerk in his lip, when he had made a point, and he would finally dismiss the witness with an affected 'Thank you,' having extracted everything that was necessary to his case. Like all good cross-examiners, Serjeant Ballantine was great in examination-in-chief. In cross-examination he seldom put a dangerous question. In criminal cases, which are all very much of a pattern, he was believed to be possessed of a series of questions the answers to which, if given either way, would help his case. In cases involving the relations of the sexes, Serjeant Ballantine was especially at home, a wide experience of life having given him the key to a large range of human motives. He was not one of those advocates who believe in their clients because they are theirs. The Claimant could not have had a greater contrast in this respect than when he changed Ballantine for Kenealy. His fault was rather not to believe in the good motives of anyone, last of all of his own client. This habit was not on all occasions pleasing to his clients. Serjeant Ballantine was counsel in the Divorce Court for a petitioner against whom the plea of connivance was set up. In his speech to the jury, he dwelt much on the

apparent fact that his client was a fool, equalled only in folly by his mother. In going out of Court, the petitioner pathetically appealed to his friends whether it was for this that he had paid the serjeant two hundred guineas—that not only he should be abused as a fool, but his poor mother too. The client possibly thought that the serjeant had an Oriental way of including a man's ancestry in comprehensive abuse; and the reflection that he had won his case would have soothed him more if he could have seen that he could not have won it without deserving these hard names. It was this same petitioner who by his reluctance to give his evidence in the presence of ladies, drew from Serjeant Ballantine the famous ejaculation that the ladies came to hear, and that they ought not to be disappointed. Whether the Gaekwar of Baroda fared better than less exalted clients, was a State secret not disclosed, but a characteristic story is told of the voyage to India. The solicitor who instructed Serjeant Ballantine and his son thoughtfully provided a book-box containing 'the Penal Code,' 'the Evidence Act,' works by Currie and others, and digests of Indian reports, in the hope that the Serjeant would indulge his leisure on board ship with study. When the box was opened at Bombay it was found to contain French novels, an emendation which the Serjeant was tempted to make in passing through Paris. In the *Mordant Case*, Serjeant Ballantine exhibited self-denial where smaller men might have succumbed to temptation. When the Prince of Wales had given his evidence, it was open to the Serjeant to cross-examine him, but he simply said, 'I have no question to ask.' These were the palmy days of a contemporary, which in its pilgrim's progress through society gives us a sketch of a prominent person every week, and straightway a portrait of Serjeant Ballantine appeared with the legend, 'He declined to cross-examine a prince.' Serjeant Ballantine made considerable mark in civil cases not of the heavy kind, such as the case of Risk Allah Bey, but he was most at home in cases like the Müller case and the Brighton poisoning case of 1872. The Overend-Gurney case, in which he held a brief, was a little out of his beat.

Serjeant Ballantine in his prosperous days,