

*PITT, THE YOUNGER, AS A BARRISTER.*

It has been the privilege of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn to include among its members many men who have become distinguished statesmen. Among the most eminent of the names which have been inscribed on its books is that of the younger Pitt. The rapid political success which Pitt attained early diverted his attention from the practice of the law to the House of Commons, but there can be no doubt that, if he had remained at the Bar, he would have secured a brilliant career. With his appointment to the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer at the age of twenty-three, his legal career came to an end, but he did not lose his interest in the profession. He long kept up his connection with the Western Circuit, of which he was a member, and Lord Stanhope relates that, after he was Minister, he continued to ask his old circuit friends to dine with him, treating them with the old cordiality and kindness. At Pitt's instance an annual dinner took place for some years at Richmond Hill, which was attended by Lord Erskine, Lord Redesdale, Sir William Grant, Mr. Leycester, Mr. Jekyll, and other prominent lawyers.

Lord Brougham, in the chapter of reminiscences which he published under the title of "Recollections of a Deceased Welsh Judge," gives an interesting account of Pitt's early life. The future Minister lived with St. Andrew St. John, afterwards Lord St. John, in a double set of chambers within the same outer door, in Old Buildings, now Old Square, Lincoln's Inn. It was while residing here that Pitt made his first essay in public speaking. Pitt had often practised speaking as well as composition under the superintendence of his father, but he was desirous of trying how his voice and his nerves would stand the test of a public assembly. Putting on a mask, as was the mode in those days, he went, accompanied by St. John, to one of the numerous debating places of the time. Brougham suggests that it was Mrs. Cornelly's that was visited by the future Minister. There Pitt made his first essay in oratory, with, it need hardly be said, the utmost success. St. John used to say that Pitt from