

## LORD JUSTICE DUKE.

After filling the high office of Chief Secretary for Ireland, Mr. H. A. Duke, K.C., has been appointed a Lord Justice of Appeal. Of his career as a politician it is unnecessary to speak. The profession, in which he occupied a foremost place when he accepted the office which he has just resigned, welcomes him back with open arms. Soon after his call he acquired a large practice on the Western Circuit, and was eventually numbered amongst the first two or three advocates at the English Bar. That he will succeed on the Bench is a foregone conclusion.

## LAWYERS AND LITERATURE.

Many successful advocates have tided over their early and unremunerative professional years by driving the pen. Mr. Duke was one of these. He began life as a journalist and was for some years on the staff of the *Western Morning News*. He must have recognised at an early date that he had other talents. Perhaps he realised, as some realise too late, that while literary work is a good stick for a young man, it is a bad crutch for an old, and he forsook it for the law. But his experience as a journalist stood him in good stead. I have heard him times without number. I have often read the transcript of a shorthand note of one of his forensic speeches; but I never heard him make a mistake in grammar; I never read a sentence of his which was not well rounded off. You will often find that he who can speak correctly (as apart from eloquently) was in his early days a writer; you will seldom find that a man who was a writer fails to speak correct English. It does not follow, however, that absolute correctness in speaking is necessary in an advocate. There was once a man on my own circuit who was never known to finish a sentence or round a period; but he seldom failed to secure the acquittal of the prisoner at the bar.

## OF JUDGMENTS.

That those who attain the dignity of the Bench should have some literary training is a consummation devoutly to be wished.