

articled clerk to a Dundalk solicitor, but speedily found that the lower branch of the profession of the law would not give him the scope he required for the exercise of his powers and the aims of his ambition. He therefore boldly abandoned the path on which he had entered when his prospects of success were already assured, and commenced, *de novo*, as a student of the Honorable Society of Lincoln's Inn. In 1859 he was called to the Bar, and connecting himself with the Northern Circuit, soon established his reputation as a sound lawyer, an acute cross-examiner, and eloquent advocate. In Liverpool, especially, his abilities were promptly recognized; and in the Court of Passage, as well as Sessions and Assizes, his briefs were numerous and important. The late Edwin James, Q.C., Mr. Justice Brett, and Lord Justice Holker were amongst the men with whom he had to compete, and his reputation steadily grew, both among his professional brethren and with clients, so that his succession to Sir John Holker as leader of the Northern Circuit was acquiesced in by universal consent.

What Sir Charles Russell is in court is well known, and we need not dwell on the steady incisiveness with which he extracts the truth from an unwilling witness, or the clear precision with which he places the salient points of a complicated case before a jury. Out of court, he is a charming companion, witty in conversation, and an appreciative listener in his turn. He takes an interest in sport of every kind, and thoroughly enjoys the turf. So well is he appreciated in the sporting world, that when the celebrated question about the identity of Bend Or was raised, briefs for both plaintiff and defendant were sent for his acceptance, and now in every sporting case both sides hope to be first to retain his services. In a rubber at whist, at picquet, and, in fact, in nearly every game, he is able to excel by means of the same mental qualities of coolness, readiness, and decision which account for his success in more weighty matters. The Anti-Tobacco Society may be interested to learn that Sir Charles Russell is remarkable as one of the few thorough-going snuff-takers of the day, and appears to enjoy intensely the stimulating pinch.

As a member of Parliament, since his election for Dundalk, in 1880, up to now, when he represents South Hackney, Sir Charles has won the ear of the House of Commons to a remarkable degree for a lawyer, and, as an Irish Liberal, even when he declined altogether the leadership of Mr. Parnell, he exercised an important influence in the course of Mr. Gladstone's measures of conciliation for Ireland. He has always advocated with earnestness and moderation the cause of his countrymen, and his tact has often gained what the obstructive system of some of his colleagues had almost lost. It must now be written of him that, with his political chief, Mr. Gladstone, he has at length unreservedly accepted the leadership of Mr. Parnell. Sir Charles, like all really great men, is always kindly and generous in his treatment of promising juniors, and is highly popular on his circuit. No man could be found more thoroughly representative of his profession. It is now some fifteen years since Sir Charles took silk, but he seems as sprightly now as the first day he was called within the Bar, and, like Mr. Gladstone, age seems only to ripen his intellect without impairing his vigor.

—Pump Court.