

LORD ST. LEONARDS.

Purchasers," and had written an entirely new work, the celebrated "Treatise on Powers," which is regarded "as one of the most remarkable performances on record in the literature of the law." This was followed in close succession by other works on legal subjects, some of an extensive and others of a minor character.

Mr. Sugden was, in politics a Tory, and in 1828 was elected in the interest of that party for the constituency of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, and was soon after made Solicitor General in the Duke of Wellington's administration. This, however, he did not long enjoy, for he was compelled to retire with his colleagues in 1830, when Earl Grey and the Reformers came into power. Sir Edward Sugden then resumed his practice at the Bar, and had the pleasure of pleading before Brougham, the new Chancellor, with whom, according to general belief, he was on anything but amiable terms. The caustic comment of Sugden upon the Chancellor's capacity for his office is well known. "If the Chancellor knew only a little of law, he would know a little of everything." A good deal has been said about the relations between Lord Brougham and Sugden. Lord Campbell, in those "Lives" which added a new terror to death, dwelt upon the matter with such spitefulness as to call forth from Sugden the *brochure* known as "Lord St. Leonard's Defence." In a much canvassed book lately published, which probably embraces as much malice and scandal as any book of its size yet written, the "Greville Memoirs," the hostility between Brougham and Sugden is accounted for by reasons hitherto, we believe, unknown. We will let the accomplished gossip tell his own story :

"Lamarchant told me that the cause of Sugden's inveterate animosity against Brougham was this—that in a debate in the House of Commons Sugden in his speech took occasion to refer to Mr. Fox, and said that he had no great respect for his authority, on which Brougham

merely said, loud enough to be heard all over the House, and in that peculiar tone that strikes like a dagger, "Poor Fox." The word, the tone, were electrical; everybody burst into roars of laughter; Sugden was so overwhelmed that he said afterwards it was with difficulty he could go on, and he vowed that he never could forgive this sarcasm."

At this time Sir Edward Sugden, with professional and parliamentary duties combined, seems to have been in the habit of accomplishing an amount of work which was simply tremendous. On one occasion, the evening before a "motion" day, he read and mastered the contents of 30 briefs between his dinner and 11 p. m., and then, instead of going to bed, called a hackney coach and drove to the House of Commons.

In 1834, on the return of the Tories to power, Sugden was made Lord Chancellor of Ireland, an office which he held for three months, just long enough to make his rare powers as a Judge manifest, and to cause his return for another too brief period, in 1841 to be hailed with acclamation. In 1852 he was appointed by Lord Derby Lord Chancellor of England, with the customary peerage.

"He speedily showed both the Bar and the public that he justified the appointment, and something more than justified it. In the first appeal case which came before him in the House of Lords—that of *Rhodes v. De Beauvoir*—a most intricate case, depending on the construction of a singular and most obscurely worded will, when the counsel expected that he would ask for the papers and take time to consider, he delivered, off-hand and without notes, a most elaborate and luminous judgment, which occupies nearly 20 pages in the printed reports. And this he did repeatedly as by intuition, so familiar had he grown with every possible complication that had arisen or could arise in all questions as to the ownership or transfer of real property."

Since the close of 1852 he never again held the Great Seal of England, although the opportunity was again offered him in his 77th year. That offer was declined, but not through love of ease, for from that time till the very end of his