

In the same year Vice-Chancellor Rolfe became Lord Cranworth. He subsequently became Lord Justice of Appeal in Chancery, and twice Lord Chancellor.

In 1852, Sir Edward Sugden, after two Chancellorships in Ireland, became Lord Chancellor with the title of Lord St. Leonards.

In 1856, there was what now appears as a ripple on the surface, though then a constitutional crisis of the first importance, in the Wensleydale Peerage case. Sir James Parker who had long been a Baron of the Exchequer, resigned his judgeship, and it was desired to secure his services for the appellate work of the Lords. He was created by patent a baron for life as Baron Wensleydale of Wensleydale. The Lords' Committee of Privileges held, however, that a writ of summons to the holder of such a patent gave no right to sit and vote. A fresh patent, with the ordinary limitation, was eventually conferred upon Lord Wensleydale as Baron Wensleydale of Walton: (8 St. Tri. N.S. 479). Just twenty years later Parliament passed the Appellate Jurisdiction Act, 1876, which accepted the principle of life peerages.

In 1858, Sir Frederick Thesiger became Lord Chancellor, with the title of Lord Chelmsford. In the same year, Mr. Pemberton-Leigh, who had been a member of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council since 1843, was raised to the peerage as Lord Kingsdown.

In 1861, Sir Richard Bethell attained the Woolsack, and was created Lord Westbury. In 1866, Sir John Romilly, Master of the Rolls, was raised to the peerage as Lord Romilly.

In 1867, a Scottish lawyer was added to the House of Lords in the person of Duncan MacNeill, on his retirement from the offices of Lord Justice-General and Lord President of the Court of Session. He took the title of Lord Colonsay.

In the same year, Lord Justice Cairns was ennobled as Lord Cairns. He was subsequently twice Lord Chancellor, and was created Earl Cairns in 1878.

The Great Seal fell, in 1868, to Lord Justice Page Wood.