

FOSS AND HIS "BIOGRAPHIA JURIDICA."

yet, after searching investigation by the most able critics and antiquaries, no substantial evidence has been found that he ever expressed so ungallant an opinion."

The late Sir Lancelot Shadwell, when at the bar, submitted to a serious loss in a pecuniary sense by honourably confining himself to the Lord Chancellor's Court and not following the practice of taking briefs for other courts; not being able, to use his own expression:—

To induce himself to think that it is consistent with justice, much less with honour, to undertake to lead a cause, and either to forsake it altogether, or give it an imperfect, hasty, and divided attention—consequences that inevitably result from the attempt to conduct causes before two judges sitting at the same time in different places.

Sir Thomas More in his youth was impressed with strong religious feelings, but in time other attractions cured him of a good deal of his pious disposition. His son-in-law, Roper, thus simply relates his course of love:—

He resorted to the house of one Maister Colte, a gentleman of Essex, that had oft invited him thither, having three daughters, whose honest conversation and virtuous education provoked him there specially to set his affection. And albeit his mind most served him to the second daughter, for that he thought her the fairest and best favored, yet when he considered that it would be both great grief and some shame also to the eldest to see her youngest sister preferred before her in marriage, he then of a certain pity framed his fancy towards her, and soon after married her, never the more discontinuing his study of the law at Lincoln's Inn, but applying still the same until he was called to the bench, and had read there twice, which is as often as any judge of the law doth ordinarily read.

Many great and eminent lawyers have been distinguished for a retentive memory. Lord Eldon said of Chief Justice De Grey (Lord Walsingham), who was a most accomplished lawyer and of a most extraordinary power of memory:—

"I have seen him come into court with both hands wrapped up in flannel (from gout). He could not take a note and had no one to do so for him. I have known him try a cause which lasted nine or ten hours, and then from memory sum up all

the evidence with the greatest correctness." *T'viss*, i. 113.

Sir William Grant too had a wonderful memory. The effect of a speech of his delivered in the House is thus described:—

"Quite a masterpiece of his peculiar and miraculous manner. Conceive an hour and a half of syllogisms strung together in the closest tissues, so artfully clear that you think every successive inference unavoidable; so rapid that you have no leisure to reflect where you have been brought from, or to see where you are to be carried; and so dry of ornament, or illustration, or reflection, that your attention is stretched—stretched—racked. All this is done without a single note."

Of the Bench generally so much is said of the learning and integrity of the judges that it would be invidious to point out one more than another. Considerable space is devoted to the account of the lives of some of our brightest luminaries, both ancient and modern. A little more than a century ago, in an interesting memoir of the celebrated Sir John Holt, we find the following:—

"After the succession of chief justices that disgraced the bench in the reigns of Charles and James since the death of Sir Matthew Hale, it is refreshing to recall a name which excites universal admiration, as possessed by one who was erudite in law, independent in character, and just and firm in his decisions. In him may be fixed the commencement of a new era of judicial purity and freedom, marked with that perfect exemption from extraneous influences which has, with few exceptions, ever since distinguished the bench, and which is now the undisputed glory of our judicature."

Of the judges who have died in harness during the present reign are Mr. Justice Talfourd, Mr. Baron Watson, and Mr. Justice Wightman, all from fits of apoplexy; the former in the middle of an effective address to the grand jury; Baron Watson after having just concluded his charge to the grand jury, and the latter while in the exercise of his duties at the assizes.

As showing the friendly terms on which the judges occasionally lived with each other, the following extract may serve to throw some light. Mr. Justice Williams in his will devised:—