

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM.

the "Lawyers' Prayer Union," and gave a brief practical address. He was genial in society, and had a fondness for children (though he left none of his own), was at all times a kind and generous relative, an affectionate and constant friend.—*Law Journal*.

LORD FARNBOROUGH, better known as Sir Thomas Erskine May, died on the evening of Monday, the 17th May, at Westminster Palace. Ill-health was the immediate cause of his resignation of his office, and a chill caught on the preceding Tuesday at Folkestone produced a congestion which had a fatal result. Sir Thomas May was born in 1815, and was educated at Bedford School, under Dr. Brereton. He was no more than sixteen years old when Mr. Fanners-Sutton, the Speaker of the House of Commons, nominated him to the office of assistant-librarian. In 1838 he was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple; he was appointed Examiner of Petitions for Private Bills in 1846, Taxing-master of the House of Commons in 1847, Clerk Assistant at the Table of the House in 1856, and Clerk of the House of Commons in 1871. He received for his services the Companionship of the Bath in 1860, and became a Knight Commander in 1866. In 1873 he was made a bencher of the Middle Temple, and was a member of the Commission for Statute Law Revision. On the 10th of this month he was created a peer by the title of Baron Farnborough of Farnborough in the county of Southampton, an honour which he has not lived to enjoy. He was a student from the very beginning of his career, and the history of his valuable but eventful life is a catalogue of his political studies and treatises. In 1844, when he was not thirty years old, he published his "Treatise on the Law, Privileges, Proceedings and Usage of Parliament," a concise and scientific digest of all that had been previously written on the subject. In 1861 he brought out the first part of his "Constitutional History of England since the Accession of George III.," a book which takes up the narrative where Hallam left it, and continues it in a more popular but not less impartial manner. Hallam found a not unworthy successor, whose good fortune it was to treat subjects of more present interest to this generation than the constitutional difficulties of the Tudor or the Stuart periods. The power of the Crown, the relations of Church and State, the position and rights of the House of Lords, freedom of speech, and the growing influence of the press in modern days, are subjects discussed learnedly and judiciously by Sir Thomas May. His latest work, "Democracy in Europe," which was pro-

duced in 1877, although a careful summing-up of the main facts relating to the development of democracy, is of less value than books of which the weight and authority cannot be surpassed. He wrote in early life articles for Charles Knight and the "Penny Cyclopædia," and is credited with occasional contributions to the *Edinburgh Review*.—*Law Journal*.

MR. JAMES STIRLING, who has been appointed a judge of the High Court of Justice in the place of the late Sir John Pearson, is the eldest son of the Rev. James Stirling, of Aberdeen. He was born in 1836, and was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took his degree of M.A. in 1863, having been Senior Wrangler and First Smith's Prizeman. He was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in Michaelmas Term, 1862, and in 1881 was appointed Junior Equity Counsel to the Treasury. He was from 1865 to 1876 a reporter at the Rolls, and has been a member of the Bar Committee since 1883.—*Law Journal*.

IN reading our recent London exchanges we have been struck by the outspoken severity and sarcasm of their remarks upon several of the English judges. Of course we have no opportunity to know whether these criticisms are well or ill founded, but it speaks well for the freedom of a country governed by a monarch that the subjects can with impunity attack judges appointed by the crown, and holding office for life. Our generally judicious London correspondent, in his letter in last week's issue, concluded with a sentence of such severity concerning the judicial manners of some of the English judges that we preferred to suppress it rather than run the risk of doing any of them a possible injustice.—*Albany Law Journal*.

INSANE JUDGES.—We have had occasion once or twice lately to chronicle charges of insanity against judges. We observe now still another case of the same character. A judge, it is said, becoming insane resigned his office. His resignation was accepted and his successor appointed. Upon recovering his senses he reclaimed his office, and the *ad interim* judge is said to have held the following colloquy with the governor:

Judge L.—"I suppose, that Judge C., now that he is restored to his office, will overrule all the decisions rendered by me while I held it."