

SIR JOHN MELLOR'S FAREWELL.

ingenious refinements whenever they seemed calculated to lead your mind astray from the broad track of common sense; while in the investigation of questions of fact, you have displayed the acumen of a vigorous intelligence, combined with the most admirable and praiseworthy patience. My Lord, in the performance of your duties as a judge, not only have you exhibited learning, industry and ability, not only have you shown yourself perfectly impartial and fearlessly independent, but you have in a marked and extraordinary degree proved yourself the possessor of other qualities, without which no man, however vast may be his talents, however powerful his intellect, can ever be pronounced a perfect judge. I allude, my lord, to your kindness of heart, and to the thorough generosity of your disposition. My Lord, during the long period of your judicial career you have invariably treated the bar, not with courtesy merely, for courtesy we have a right to expect, but with a generous kindness and a delicate consideration which was more than our due, and which at times might perhaps, without injustice, have been withheld. My Lord, the members of the bar have always felt it a delight to practise before you, and they will ever remember with feelings of gratitude the manner in which you have treated them. And now I must cease to trouble you. I have no doubt that, while you are in the enjoyment of the leisure you have so fully earned and so richly deserved, many reflections will occur which will afford you satisfaction. I hope that not the least pleasurable will be the consciousness that during your judicial life you have won for yourself the esteem, the admiration, and the affection of the bar of England."

Mr. Justice Mellor, who appeared deeply affected, then replied. After remarking that when he was first appointed a member of that Court, it was associated with all its great traditions, and was presided over by the present Lord Chief Justice, "whose brilliant abilities have only been rendered more conspicuous by time,"—he proceeded to express his sense of the kindness he had received

from his colleagues, and the assistance he had invariably received from the bar. He, then, continued as follows:—

"I may now say, in the presence of the bar and of all my dear friends who are around me, that the kindness I have received from every member of the judicial bench—in whatever Court—has been to me the greatest happiness, and the most pleasant assurance to me that I was not unacceptable to them. Our intercourse was not the mere formal intercourse which must take place between men in such a position, but it was kindly, friendly, uninterrupted by a single day. . . . In such circumstances I cannot but feel regret in being obliged to retire from association with them; but circumstances have compelled me to the conclusion that I am following the dictates of prudence, as well as serving the interests of the public in making way for another man. Mr. Attorney-General, I shall ever look back on this day with pleasure, and its memory will always be a well-spring of delight and satisfaction. I thank you for the assurance you have given me on the part of the bar; and I shall look to the future of the bar with the deepest interest, assured as I am that, so long as the functions of the bar are honourably performed, they will afford the best security for the liberties of the people."

He then, after again expressing his gratification at the remarks of the Attorney-General, bade "Farewell." The judges present then took their leave of the retiring judge, who with his colleagues, left the Court.

The *English Law Journal* of June 14th ult., whose account of the ceremony we have abridged, thus expresses itself as to Mr. Justice Mellor's career:—

"His Lordship's career was not marked by those brilliant flashes of intellectual power which have won for some of his contemporaries the admiration of the public; nor could he be regarded as a judge of great learning or great authority. But he was very assiduous, very patient and painstaking, a man of excellent good sense, a lover