

an evening examine and digest for appropriate action on the morrow no less than thirty-five briefs; and then, regardless of the rest that most would seek after such labours and in view of those to come, would proceed to a late sitting of the House of Commons for a contest of wits with those who were shaping the course of a great nation? Our wonder increases when we learn that he lived to the age of ninety-four. Upon the bench he carried the same extraordinary powers. His "piercing intelligence," as one of his biographers has called it, penetrated to every nook and corner of the case and cast light upon the whole pathway to be travelled in delivering judgment. Argument before such a Judge could not have been always an unmingled pleasure. Consciousness of knowledge and mental grasp greatly inferior to that of the listener must have been far from comforting to many of the counsel who addressed him. At least, we learn that Sugden was not always patient and considerate under such circumstances. But in spite of such faults, which are scarcely inseparable from the possession of a mind so powerful and independent, he must be regarded as among the first of English Judges. Deep and accurate learning, an experience such as few lawyers have had, and a remarkable intellect, combined to make him a Judge who, for soundness and force of decision, has perhaps not been surpassed.

The roll is not complete: only a few high points have been touched, and many great names remain— Lord Nottingham, the first to make of English equity a real system; the gifted and scholarly Somers, who so well knew a Judge's duty, as exemplified by the simple but noble answer with which, on a noted occasion, he met the argument of hardship, that a Judge "ought not to make the parties' case better than the law has made it": Lord Kenyon, pictured in no enviable light by Lord Campbell, but whom Lord Campbell himself compels us to respect in describing the courageous and honourable course that he always pursued; Brougham, with mental endowments rarely surpassed, more versatile, perhaps, than any of the great men of English history, but too undisciplined and eccentric to attain the essentials of high judicial character; Lord Cottenham, comparatively