

But the cost of the change is by no means the only ground on which it is to be condemned ; and we are glad that Sir Edward Clarke availed himself of the opportunity to emphasise the objections that have been urged against prohibiting the law officers from practising privately in the Courts. One effect of the change has been to increase the political character of the offices of Attorney and Solicitor General, and to weaken their connection with the Bar. The law officers are seldom seen in the Courts, and must eventually lose touch with the interests of the profession. In this way the Attorney-General will cease to be recognised as the leader of the Bar, and the office will no longer attract the most eminent men in the profession. Mr. Darling, Q.C., thinks that a salary of £10,000 a year, which is as large as that of the Lord Chancellor and twice as large as that of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will secure the services of a 'a very adequate barrister to advise the Crown.' We do not doubt it. The question is whether the services of the best man could be procured on the terms, and, so far as this question is concerned, the reference to the Lord Chancellor and the Chancellor of the Exchequer is wholly beside the mark. The Lord Chancellor is entitled to a handsome pension, and remains a judicial officer after he has vacated the woolsack, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer is invariably a politician whose whole time is devoted to politics, and who gives up nothing on accepting the office. The case of a law officer is different. He has to abandon his private practice for an office the tenure of which will probably be more uncertain in the future than it has been in the past, with the knowledge that whenever the Government of which he is a member is defeated he may find it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to resume his former place in the Courts."

MISUNDERSTOOD.—Condensed reports of the Solicitor-General's speech at Sheffield omit (says the *Daily News*) an aside that much delighted the audience. "I hope," said the ex-Recorder of Sheffield, "that during the ten years I was connected with this city I have given satisfaction——" (here the company broke into a loud cheer). "I was about to add," continued Sir Frank Lockwood gravely, "to those gentlemen who came before me in my judicial capacity. I did not realize till I heard the applause that there were so many present here to-night."