

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM.

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Mr. JUSTICE PEARSON, of the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice, died at a quarter past four o'clock in the afternoon of Thursday, the 13th May, at his residence in Onslow Square. In the second week of October, 1882, on the retirement of the late Vice-Chancellor Hall, Mr. John Pearson, Q.C., was appointed judge. He had been a leader successively in the Courts of Vice-Chancellor Malins and of Mr. Justice (now Lord Justice) Fry, had appeared in most cases of importance which passed before those tribunals, and had for years possessed a high reputation as a sound and painstaking lawyer. During twenty-two years of practice at the junior bar he had gained wide experience as an equity draftsman, and for fourteen years more he had sat in the front row of his Court. Many of his juniors, such as Mr. Justice Kay (who was called four years later than Mr. Justice Pearson), Mr. Justice Chitty, and Mr. Justice North (both called twelve years later) were already on the bench. Mr. Justice Kay's list of causes was bodily transferred "for trial or hearing only" to the new judge. Sir John Pearson, like several other modern judges, was the son of a country clergyman, the Rev. John Norman Pearson, of Tunbridge Wells. He was born in 1819, and at an early age went to Cambridge, where he entered at Caius College, and was the contemporary of Lord Esher and Lord Justice Baggallay. Mr. Pearson was a scholar of his college, took prizes for classics as a freshman and junior soph., and for moral science also in his second year. He took his B.A. degree without honours on February 20th, 1841. On June 11th, 1844, he was called to the Bar by the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, of which he afterwards became (in 1867) bencher, and, in 1884, treasurer. He married, on December 21st, 1854, Charlotte Augusta, daughter of the Rev. William Short, rector of St. George's, Bloomsbury. He took silk in December, 1866, and had his share of company cases. He had somewhat of a speciality for trade-mark and patent cases, and one of the last which he conducted before his elevation to

the bench was *The United Telephone Co. v. Harrison*. An account of his career on the bench is given elsewhere. On the Lords Justices taking their seats in Appeal Court II. on Friday, 14th May, Lord Justice Cotton said that they had suffered a severe loss by the death of Mr. Justice Pearson. He personally had known him well for many years; they were of about the same standing and when Queen's Counsel had long practised in the same Court; and his death was to him the loss of a dear friend. But he must speak of him as a judge. Since his appointment Mr. Justice Pearson had discharged his duties with great zeal, ability and expedition, and his judicial work was done in a way which was satisfactory to the suitors, and agreeable to the Bar practising in his Court and to the solicitors who had business there. His death would be deeply felt by all branches of the profession, as well as by the public, and also, as the loss of an able and esteemed judge, by all members of the Court of Appeal. Mr. Higgins, Q.C., said that no judge had ever shown greater or more unvarying courtesy and kindness to the members of the Bar when he was one of them or when he attained the bench. No one had ever heard anything from his lips which could give offence to the most delicate susceptibility. His great erudition and high qualifications were shown in his judgments, which the reports would hand down to posterity. It was impossible to adequately express the sorrow which his death would create in all ranks of the profession; and on behalf of the Bar, the learned counsel said he could cordially affirm everything which had fallen from Lord Justice Cotton. The religion he inherited and made his own was of a robust and practical type; his belief in the truths of revelation firm and intelligent; his nature was too large-hearted to permit of his being exclusive, and his mind was so judicial that he could not fail to be tolerant; not that he was indifferent to truth or error, but wherever he believed that an honest religious motive was at work he accepted and honoured it. So that, while a decided Churchman and a sincere and devout Christian, he never attached himself to any Church party. During some years of his life he took an active part in the Clerical and Lay Union which met in the vestry of St. George's, Bloomsbury, for discussing matters of social and religious interest, and was also occasionally a frequenter of the meetings of a kindred character still held in the vestry of St. James's, Piccadilly. He was a careful observer of the day of rest, and on more than one occasion came forward publicly to vindicate its sanctity. He presided, by request, in the first year of his judgeship at a meeting of