

Mr. Balfour, when speaking on the subject, said:—"The Law officers have no control over the legal action of the Government. A Minister is not obliged to take his law from the Attorney-General, but he goes to Law officers of the Crown because he thinks he will get better advice from them than he would get elsewhere."

### **MILITARY SERVICE.**

#### **THE FREEMAN'S PRIVILEGE.**

The following interesting and admirable sketch of a subject much in evidence at the present time, copied by us from the *Morning Post* of August 20th, is from the pen of Professor Hearnshaw:—

The military system of the Anglo-Saxons is based upon universal service, under which is to be understood the duty of every freeman to respond in person to the summons to arms, to equip himself at his own expense, and to support himself at his own charge during the campaign.

#### *I. Universal Obligation to Serve.*

With the words quoted at the head of this article Gneist, the German historian of the English Constitution, begins his account of the early military system of our ancestors. He is, of course, merely stating a matter of common knowledge to all students of Teutonic institutions. What he says of the Anglo-Saxons is equally true of the Franks, the Lombards, the Visigoths, and other kindred peoples. But it is a matter of such fundamental importance that I will venture, even at the risk of tedious repetition, to give three confirmatory quotations from English authorities.

Grose, in his "Military Antiquities," says:—

"By the Saxon laws every freeman of an age capable of bearing arms, and not incapacitated by any bodily infirmity, was in case of a foreign invasion, internal insurrection, or other emergency obliged to join the army."

Freeman, in his "Norman Conquest," speaks of—