

packed in a small travelling trunk. Soule's Reference Manual, published in 1883, gives nearly seven thousand volumes of reports of cases of English law, Africa and the islands of the distant seas furnishing their contingent, with several thousand volumes of elementary treatises."

THE LATE LORD MONKSWELL.

THE world has hardly had time to become familiar with the identity of Lord Monkswell with Sir Robert Collier when the first bearer of the title passes into history. How the name came to be adopted, when last year it formed one of a batch of Mr. Gladstone's creations, caused some curiosity. The titles of lawyers are sometimes suggested by pure sentiment, as in the case of Lord Lyndhurst, who took the name of the place where he first met his wife, or Lord Chelmsford, who chose the place where he had his first brief, and the territorial connection is generally very slight. Irreverent persons suggested that some one had merely invented a pretty name, but the name was, in fact, taken from a small farm in Devonshire. An amusing *contretemps* happened on Sir Robert's assumption of the title. The farm had belonged to him, but he had sold it. The purchaser was a simple West-country farmer, who was considerably put out when he heard that Sir Robert was now Lord Monkswell. Whether he supposed that his title to the freehold might be affected, or that he had bought the name and all the uses to which it could be put, as well as the land, it is certain that he went to his lawyer at Plymouth in great alarm and asked if nothing could be done to protect his interests. Vice-Chancellor Malins once issued an injunction against a man who, to the confusion of the postman, had adopted for his house a name very like that of his neighbour's house; but the Vice-Chancellor was no more, and we believe that the countryman's lawyer was unable to advise that even a *quo warranto*, petition of right, or any other great constitutional engine could effectually be put in motion to prevent a successful lawyer choosing what title he liked.

Collier was rather a man of varied accomplishments than concentrated talent. He was

an excellent billiard player, an artist of taste and skill, and a sound and painstaking lawyer. He had a turn for politics, which, combined with local influence, stood him in good stead in his career. His family belonged to the class of prosperous provincial business men; and his father, having been returned for Plymouth at the General Election after the first Reform Act, was a member of the House of Commons for ten years. Robert Collier was educated at the Plymouth Grammar School, went to Trinity College, Cambridge, passing out of the University without distinction, was called to the bar and joined the Western Circuit. His influence in these parts brought him briefs, and his steadiness of application and practical knowledge brought him more. He was accounted an admirable junior, and was one of the few of that class who disappoint the prognostications of their friends that they will fail as Queen's Counsel. In fact he did not take this important step until he had made the ground firm by obtaining a seat in Parliament, a goal to which he had looked forward from the beginning. Immediately after he had taken his degree, and while yet a law student, he had made an attempt on the borough of Launceston, but in 1852 he gained the Plymouth seat, which he retained until his elevation to the bench. A year or so after his return to Parliament he took silk. The period was intermediate on the circuit between the brilliant era of Cockburn and Crowder and the almost equally brilliant time of Coleridge and Karlake. Crowder had just been elevated to the Common Pleas, and Cockburn had been Solicitor-General for some years, and had left the circuit. Karlake and Coleridge were still juniors. Montague Smith had been a Queen's Counsel about a year, and he found Collier a very formidable antagonist. Every weapon within his reach was employed by Collier. As Montague Smith said of him years afterwards: "Collier did not care how he hit or where he hit, so long as he hit hard enough." The feelings engendered by the daily opposition of two leaders on a small circuit are apt to produce a strained situation, but it is well to know that the two opponents afterwards sat side by side for fourteen years in the Privy