

best interests of England—of the country where very many years of my laborious life have been passed, and where I have received a kindness, a consideration, and a regard which I should be glad to be able to repay.' These words must have been recalled by many on Tuesday, when representatives of every class of English life assembled in the Brompton Oratory and at his graveside at Epsom to do honour to his memory.

As became an Irishman with strong and earnest convictions and with conspicuous ability to express them, Charles Russell took an active part in politics quite early in his career at the Bar. He stood for Dundalk in the Liberal interest in 1865, and again in 1874, but was defeated at both elections. In 1880, however, he defeated his antagonist, and, as an independent supporter of Mr. Gladstone's Irish policy, soon obtained a recognized place as a debater in the House of Commons, though never at any period of his long Parliamentary career did he achieve any success in the House at all comparable to his reputation in the Courts. Two years after he entered the House of Commons—in the middle of 1882—he was offered the puisne judgeship made vacant by the promotion of Bowen to the Court of Appeal. This was not the first occasion on which a judicial post had been offered him. While he was a junior he received from Lord Westbury the offer of a County Court judgeship. His refusal of both these offers shows that Lord Russell had at two different stages of his career a keen appreciation of his powers. At the general election in 1885 he was returned for South Hackney against the present Mr. Justice Darling, and he continued to represent this constituency until his promotion to judicial office. He threw himself with characteristic vigour into the Home Rule agitation, and became Attorney-General in Mr. Gladstone's short lived Ministry in 1886. It was while the succeeding government of Lord Salisbury was in office that he made his chief reputation as a politician. His speech in the House of Commons on the report of the Parnell Commission was a masterly performance which received the full admiration of Mr. Gladstone and his supporters; but it was mainly as a platform speaker that he became an eminent figure in his party. He spoke in all parts of the country at Home Rule meetings. No place seemed too remote or too small—he travelled from London after a busy day in the Courts, and spent the evening in exercising his fervid oratory in a heated hall; and there can be little doubt but that the strain which his enthusiasm thus placed upon his physical strength did something to undermine even his fine constitution. On the return of the Liberal party to power in 1892 he resumed the office of Attorney-General. He objected to the new condition of exclusion from private practice, and informed his constituents that only his personal loyalty to Mr. Gladstone had induced him to resume the position on such terms. The most notable event of his second tenure of office as first Law Officer of the Crown was his appearance before the Behring Sea Commission in Paris in 1893, when, with Sir Richard