

*FAREWELL WORDS OF AN EMINENT JUDGE.*

On Nov. 15, there was a large attendance of the Bench and Bar in the Lord Chief Justice's Court, when Lord Esher, the ex-Master of the Rolls, took leave of the Bar.

The Attorney-General addressed Lord Esher as follows, all the members of the Bar standing: My Lord Esher,—Your lordship has been good enough to be present here to-day in order that I, on behalf of the profession of which you have been for so many years a distinguished ornament, might bid you a few words of farewell. My lord, recognizing in you another of those distinguished advocates who trace no small part of their success to the fact that they joined the great Northern Circuit, I doubt not that you owe some of your keen appreciation of clear and incisive argument to the fact that you had among your competitors and rivals such men as Edward James, Stephen Temple, and George Mellish, and some of us who were privileged to practise in the old Court of Admiralty remember well the distinguished position you attained there when Dr. Lushington was its judge, a position which has made its mark on many judgments delivered during the last twenty years. But, my lord, interesting to you and to us as may be references to your lordship's career at the Bar, it is upon your lordship's position as a judge that I desire for a few moments to dwell. When, my lord, in 1868 you relinquished the high position of Solicitor-General to become one of the judges of the old Court of Common Pleas, there were not a few who thought that you had somewhat abruptly terminated what might have been a great parliamentary or forensic career. But, my lord, a few months were sufficient to satisfy all that in undertaking the great responsibilities of a judge you were accepting the duties of an office which you were well qualified to fulfil. My lord, many of us remember the great commercial years of prosperity and the Guildhall Sittings unshorn of any of their ancient glory, and can remember the trial of many causes in which your lordship's business knowledge and acquaintance with commercial affairs came out in strong relief. My lord, your lordship's translation to the Court of Appeal in 1876, and your lordship's selection as Master of the Rolls, following one of the quickest thinkers who has ever adorned the English Bench, are steps in your career which met with universal approval and approbation. I pause not to consider whether the twenty-nine years during which your lordship has occupied high judicial position is without precedent, but this I say, without fear of criticism, that from the day when your lordship first sat upon the Bench until the day of your retirement your career has been one of continuous and increasing success. Your lordship made your Court a tribunal for business men in which mercantile usages and mercantile customs were grasped and appreciated, and while, my lord, you endeavored to bring to bear to the case which you had to decide all the legal knowledge at your disposal, you never permitted any legal technicalities to interfere with what you believed to be substantial justice. My lord, we at the Bar have