

County Court was generally considered as a refuge for the disreputable, an asylum for the failures of the profession. Even a highly conscientious and religious Chancellor like Hatherley did not hesitate—or, if he did hesitate, did not scruple—to appoint as a judge of County Courts a man whom the Lord Chief Justice of England (Cockburn) had previously deprived of his revisorship on the ground of unfitness for judicial office. The fact that “Beales, M.A.,” made a very passable County Court judge, on the whole, did not wipe out the stain left on Hatherley’s reputation by so gross an example of throwing a sop to Cerberus. Lord Cairns, though, like Hatherley, *vir pietate gravis*, was too big a man to stoop to a dirty political job like the conversion of a half-starved demagogue into a judge. Yet he, too, regarded a County Court as if it had been invented with a view to the relief of Lord Chancellors embarrassed with a superfluity of private secretaries in want of place. And so it has come to pass that a good many men have in days gone by procured a judicial position and fifteen hundred a year who on their merits would never have earned a third of that income at the Bar. Of late years, however, “we have changed all that.” Numerically, the County Court Bench is far stronger than the Queen’s Bench Division. If the Lord Chancellor continues to appoint men like Holl, Q.C., Lumley Smith, Q.C., French, Q.C., to County Courts, the time will shortly arrive when the standard of the High Court Bench will have to be raised several degrees, or the serious anomaly will be found to exist of an appellate tribunal no stronger, if, indeed, it is not weaker, than the tribunal of first resort. A County Court is an inferior court, of course; and equally, of course, a Queen’s Bench Court is a superior court. But even now I would undertake to form a Divisional Court constituted of judges of inferior courts quite equal to a Divisional Court constituted of the same number of judges of superior courts. The inferior court judges are styled “Your Honour,” receive fifteen hundred a year, and have no retiring pension; while their more fortunate, but not necessarily more deserving, brethren are styled “My Lord,” or “Your Lordship,” receive five thousand a year, and retire—or *may* retire, if they like—after fifteen years’ service, on a handsome annuity of three thousand five hundred.—*Law Gazette*.