

and that the disasters which befell his cause were not attributable to any lack of energy on his part. When all was lost—when fortune had pronounced her last word against the Confederate arms—Mr. Benjamin came to England to begin in English courts the practice of the legal profession.

"The experiment might well seem foolhardy and hopeless even in the case of a man of Mr. Benjamin's energy and ability. He was pretty well advanced in years. His professional antecedents were not obvious preparations for success here. He had not been trained as a lawyer in one of the States of the Union in which the common law, with all its incidents, had taken root. He was not a Massachusetts or Pennsylvanian lawyer, accustomed to handle English authorities and to apply English rules of procedure. He was trained in Louisiana, the jurisprudence of which was formed of successive layers of Roman, French and Spanish law, and the courts of which were accustomed, when the States codes afforded no guide, to go in search of general principles to Roman, French, or Spanish authorities. Probably this apparent disadvantage was an advantage in disguise. However great the practical inconvenience of such a state of legal confusion, experience in such a forum was calculated to train lawyers who were more than mere tradesmen and who possessed wide legal knowledge. In this school Mr. Benjamin might well acquire that familiarity with and mastery over general principles which was the greatest of his gifts as an advocate. It was not an accident that Edward Livingston, the first American lawyer to direct attention to the subject of legal reform, began his work in that State. Nor was it a fact of no consequence that Mr. Benjamin received his legal training in circumstances in which it was essential to attain a familiarity with general jurisprudence. When he arrived in this country the fame of his ability had preceded him, and the sympathy with him, as a political exile and the representative of a lost cause, smoothed his path. The late Lord Justice Turner, Lord Hatherly, and Sir Fitzroy Kelly bestirred themselves to procure for him a dispensation from the necessity of undergoing the usual period of probation before being called to the bar. Eminent firms of solicitors in Liverpool and elsewhere rallied round him. The publication

of his book on the Law of Sale advanced his professional fortunes; and he rapidly rose in favour until it became customary to retain him as a matter of course in all important cases before the Court of Appeals in the House of Lords. He had attained to an eminent position when his medical advisers warned him that he must no longer share in the excitement and tumult of forensic contests, and he decided, much to the regret of his brethren, to retire from his profession."

#### LEGISLATION IN ENGLAND.

Parliament now sits, not only during the winter, but all summer through, and apparently not even the autumnal shooting season is to be held sacred; yet the quantity of actual work accomplished is not prodigious. The present condition of things has prompted an effort to remedy the evil, and the House of Commons is in future to do a considerable part of its work, or at all events of its talking, in sections. Mr. Gladstone, at the Lord Mayor's Banquet, Aug. 8, referred to the innovation in the following terms:—

"One word on the House of Commons itself. Do what we may and labor as we may—freely as members of that assembly spend their powers and an amount of exertion never equalled, so far as I know, either in any former period or in any other country, for the benefit of the land to which they belong—yet they still seem as if they were engaged in almost hop-less effort in the multitude of demands that arise from every quarter, while the multiplication of interests of this vast and still extending Empire appears to defy the very best efforts they can make. But we have this year entered upon the first trial of an experiment of the utmost interest. That experiment is known under the name of the institution of what are called Grand Committees, by which the House of Commons endeavors to multiply itself for practical purposes with a judicious division of labor, applying to portions of its work for which a part of its members are proficient the energies of that part alone, and leaving the rest free for undertaking though perhaps not less important, yet separate purposes. I earnestly hope that the secret of self-multiplication, which has been largely used in other lands, may be found effectual here, where