

## LORD CRANWORTH—THE NEW JUDGES—A RUN OF LEGAL PATRONAGE.

tained since the last meeting of this House, in the case of my late noble and learned friend Lord Cranworth. My lords, of the loss of Lord Cranworth as a friend to those who had the privilege of enjoying his friendship, I feel it impossible to speak; but this I may say, that your lordships and the public in him have lost one who has passed through a long career of high judicial office without a tarnish upon his name, and I will venture to say that in the discharge of his great duties his courtesy in manner, his careful and conscientious efficiency as a judge, and above all, his sound and exquisite common sense, have never been surpassed by any person who ever before held the same office."

The *Times* remarks that "Although Lord Cranworth lived in agitated times, he never made a personal enemy, and, although during the years in which he held the Great Seal he presided over debates of the keenest interest, the demeanour of the House of Lord was under him maintained unruffled. His career was of a kind of which Englishmen are not unnaturally proud. He was the son of a country parson, and he made his way in the world by his own good abilities and sterling character. A sedulous schoolboy, a successful if not a distinguished student at the University, an advocate of trusted reputation, a Judge of the first rank both on the common law and equity sides of Westminster Hall, distinguished as a lawyer by his freedom from the prejudices of his profession, and as a politician by his perfect temper and consistency, Lord Cranworth earned the position he held, with the approval of all men. It was as impossible for him to sympathise with the stormy violence of Brougham as with the dogged resistance Eldon offered to change. His life had been too easy to allow him to be revolutionary, and owing nothing himself to privilege, he was never tempted to engage in a vain battle in defence of privileges. He had worked hard for many years, but his labour had been well rewarded; and as he kept his mind open to fresh impressions to the last, he never sank into the optimism of those who think the world must be perfectly well ordered because they are themselves tolerable comfortable in it. Few men enjoyed greater personal popularity. He was a thorough Whig, but he never allowed the keenness of his partisanship to cloud his judgment or to warp his actions. Fair and equal to all, no man grudged him his elevation, but rather everyone rejoiced at a conspicuous instance in which abilities carefully cultivated had obtained distinguished reward."—*Law Times*

## THE NEW JUDGES.

The names of the gentlemen selected by the Lord Chancellor to fill the additional judgeships, established under the Election Petitions and Corrupt Practices Act, have been published. Mr. Serjeant George Hayes is to be the new judge of the Court of Queen's Bench;

Sir W. B. Brett, Q.C. the new judge of the Common Pleas; and Mr. Anthony Cleasby, Q.C., the new baron of the Exchequer. Mr. Hayes was called to the bar in January, 1830, and has practised on the Midland Circuit. He was called to the degree of Serjeant-at-Law in 1856, and received, in 1860, a patent of precedence, ranking next to Mr. A. J. Stephens. He has also for some years held the appointment of Recorder of Leicester. Sir William Balfour Brett was called to the Bar in 1846, made Queen's Counsel in 1861, and appointed Solicitor-General in February of that year, upon the elevation of Sir C. J. Selwyn to the Bench. Mr. Anthony Cleasby was called to the bar in June 1831, and made Queen's Counsel in 1861. Both Sir W. B. Brett and Mr. Cleasby practised on the Northern Circuit.

It is very difficult to offer any just criticism on these appointments. There are, no doubt, some gentlemen whose claims to promotion seemed strong and the expectation of the profession has not in every respect been realised. The Solicitor-General had, both by virtue of his office and his genuine merits, an irrefragable claim. He will not only strengthen the commercial ability of the Court of Common Pleas, but he will render great service in expediting business, when necessary, in the Court of Admiralty, and also in the Divorce Court. It is open to the Bar to deny him genius of a high order, but his knowledge of mercantile law, and his great experience in all kinds of shipping and commercial transactions, are beyond question. Mr. Serjeant Hayes has won his chief renown at *Nisi Prius*, and enjoys a world-wide fame for humour, keenness of wit, and perception of the motives and tendencies of human action. It may therefore be fairly expected that he will exercise his judicial functions at *Nisi Prius* with perfect success. Mr. Cleasby is a gentleman of high literary attainments, and is possessed of a trained and accomplished mind. His utility will be displayed in *Banco* rather than at *Nisi Prius*. University men will note with satisfaction that Sir W. B. Brett and Mr. Cleasby are *alumni* of Cambridge, at which seat of learning the latter gentleman distinguished himself by achieving the position both of a wrangler and a first-class classic. It will be remembered that Mr. Cleasby contested the representation of the university of Cambridge in February last, but was defeated by Mr. Beresford Hope.—*Solicitors' Journal*.

## A RUN OF LEGAL PATRONAGE.

Although the remarkable good fortune of Conservative lawyers during the past two years has been frequently made a subject for comment, at no time has either a complete list of the appointments or an estimate of the value of the patronage been given. Now that three new judges have been added to the already long list, there may be some interest in knowing how the composition of the judicial