

'When H. III. had founded a house for the reception of convert Jews; to keep them separate from the rest of their nation it was put under the direction and care of an officer, called the Keeper of the House of Converts (now the Rolls), which office I doubt not was usually granted to one of the Chancery clerks then living in the king's palace; for I find it granted to two successively for life, both of them also clerks of the rolls. And in anno 15 Ed. III. that office was annexed by charter to the keepership of the rolls; and in the fifty-first of that reign the charter for some defect in it was confirmed by Parliament, and provision was made after the decease of William de Burstall, clerk of the rolls, or the next avoidance of the office, that the chancellor or keeper should for the future institute thereunto. This rendered it more considerable, and after it was endowed with this House of the gift and patronage of the king the nomination of the clerks by degrees has been solely granted by the Crown, exclusive of the chancellor. He was anciently called "*Gardein de Rolls, Clericus et Custos Rotulor.*" in later times "*Clericus Parvæ Bagæ and Custos Rotulor. et Domus Conversor,*" and in no statute "*master,*" until the eleventh of Hen. VII, c. 18, and yet in c. 25 of the same year he is called "*clerk,*" and as such still takes his oath of office.

"In the fifty-first year of his reign Edward III. annexed the *Domus Conversorum Judæorum* to the office of the Master of the Rolls, which then became known as the Rolls House.

'In 1717 the old house was pulled down and the present one was commenced in September following, and built by Sir Joseph Jekyll, M.R., George I. giving him 5,000*l* towards it.

'Sir John Copley (afterwards Lord Lyndhurst) was the first Master of the Rolls who did not live in the Rolls House.'

The Rolls House built by Sir Joseph Jekyll, M.R., is at present standing, but will shortly, I believe, be pulled down.

The new wing has displaced the Rolls Court, but not its memories. Who can forget the many eminent lawyers who practised in that Court, who afterwards adorned the Bench as judges, some of whom have passed away; but who being dead yet speak in their judgments, and in the many legal reforms mainly effected by their means, or given effect to by their judicial decisions?

It is a remarkable coincidence that the last judge of first instance who as Master of the Rolls sat at the Rolls Court, and