

doubted if he could do a sum in algebraical addition. One was put, and the future Lord Abinger failed; and as Lord B. said, he did not know so much about it as a 'pot-house boy.' In politics a thorough Tory; in society cold and reserved; in person the largest judge on the bench. Sumner writes of Abinger: 'I was not particularly pleased with him: he was cold and diffident, and did not take to me, evidently; and so I did not take to him. Neither did I hear him, through a long evening, say anything that was particularly remarkable; but all the bar bear testimony to his transcendency as an advocate.'

To Parke, afterward Lord Wensleydale, Sumner says the palm for talent, attainments and judicial penetration is conceded by the profession, who regard him as *facile princeps*. About fifty-six years old, above the common size, erect, 'with the brightest eyes I ever saw;' dressed with great care, and in the evening wearing a blue coat and bright buttons; a man of society, 'not a little conceited and vain.' Not fluent, but with no particular want of words; a well-read lawyer, yet not a jurist. Alderson comes next. He was an excellent scholar, carrying off the highest mathematical and classical honors at Cambridge. In person awkward, in voice abrupt and uneven, with light hair, and a high forehead. Hasty and crotchety, he was thought an unsafe judge. He had more enemies than any other judge in the Hall. Sumner says he heard from him a higher display of judicial talent than from any other judge in England. Elsewhere he says, in a letter to Story: 'Baron Alderson is the first equity judge in the Court of Exchequer, and unquestionably a very great judge. I have sat by his side for three days on the bench, and have constantly admired the clearness, decision, and learning which he displayed. In one case of murder, where all the evidence was circumstantial, I sat with him from nine o'clock in the morning till six at night. His charge to the jury was a luxury. I wish you could have heard it. It was delightful to hear an important case, so ably mastered by one who understood his duty and the law, and did not shrink from laying before the jury his opinions. Alderson's voice and manner remind me of Webster more than those of anybody I have seen here; his features are large, but his hair, eyes, and complexion are light.' The author of

'The Bar' has a drive at Alderson, when young, pointed at his triumphs as senior wrangler at Cambridge:

"Aspiring Aldeerson—a sessions' star,
Already 'cuts a figure' at the Bar,
Maintains his academic honors past,
And every subject *corangles* to the last."

Baron Maule was 'a very peculiar person.' Distinguished at Cambridge both in classics and mathematics, he kept up his acquaintance with those studies. He was confessed on all hands to be the first commercial lawyer in England, but his moral character rendered him in some respects a strange person for a judge. He always took porter before an argument, he said, 'to bring his understanding down to a level with the judges.'

Patteson, 'the ablest lawyer in the Queen's Bench—some say the first in all the courts,' was short and stout, his face heavy and gross, and was very deaf. 'Little Johnny' Williams, an excellent classical scholar, had little legal talent, and was principally noted for early rising and for falling asleep in company.

It is curious to note how many of the legal celebrities described by Sumner were concerned in the trial of Queen Caroline—Brougham, Lushington, Wilde, Denman, Tindal.

Comparing the English with the American lawyers, Sumner says: 'The English are better artists than we are, and understand their machinery better; of course, they dispatch business quicker. There is often a style of argument before our Supreme Court at Washington which is superior to anything I have heard here.' In regard to the character of the bar and their relations to the bench in England he says: 'I know nothing that has given me greater pleasure than the elevated character of the profession as I find it, and the relation of comity and brotherhood between the bench and bar. The latter are really the friends and helpers of the judges. Good will, graciousness and good manners prevail constantly. And then the duties of the bar are of the most elevated character. I do not regret that my lines have been cast in the places where they are; but I cannot disguise the feeling akin to envy with which I regard the position of the English barrister, with the intervention of the attorney to protect him from the feelings and prejudices of his client, and with a code of professional morals which makes his daily duties a career of the most honorable employment.'