

LORD JUSTICE THESIGER.

the whole of his pass papers to be annulled, and to go in for honours. He, however, reserved himself for the school of law and history; but, his health failing, he was eventually obliged to take an ordinary pass degree. In Trinity Term, 1862, he was called to the bar. He worked assiduously, and became a favourite with members of both branches of the profession for his modesty and genuine, but unobtrusive, attainments. He had the invaluable aid to an advocate with his fellows of being known never to take an advantage not permitted by the rules of the game. Mr. Thesiger was always looked upon as the soul of honour and the model of professional etiquette and integrity. *Causes célèbres* he was not often concerned with; his practice lay in paths quieter, but not less avenues of fame. He held, however, a junior brief in the great Roupell case. He had the appointment of "postman" in the Court of Exchequer, which entitles the holder to precedence in making motions, even before the Attorney-General in other than Crown cases, and to a comfortable seat in Court. At one time he was frequently to be seen in the committee-rooms of the Houses of Parliament; but he made up his mind to resign this part of his practice, and returned all his Parliamentary briefs. He applied to Lord Selborne for silk, and was made Q.C. in 1874 by the present Lord Chancellor. In distinction from the ordinary practice, which is to make a batch of Queen's Counsel at a time, Mr. Thesiger alone was added to the list of Her Majesty's Counsel, and took his seat within the bar. Leading business fell to his lot at once in remarkable profusion. No advocate was heard more often in heavy commercial cases; in compensation cases he was the regular opponent of Sir Henry Hawkins. Eloquence was never ascribed to him; but his fair and common-sense way of presenting facts, and his complete mastery of details—above all, the virtue of always reading his instructions—gave him great power with juries. With the judges, his habit of close reasoning and power of lucid argument prevailed. He had the reputation of being an excellent lawyer; and it was notorious that no counsel was listened to with more attention in the House of Lords. In 1877 he was made

Attorney-General to the Prince of Wales, in succession to Mr. Loch—an appointment he was not to hold for many weeks. He had been elected a bencher of his Inn in 1874, and in 1876 sat on the commission to which the Fugitive Slave Circular was referred. Mr. Thesiger had never made an attempt to enter Parliament, but in the election that was impending it was understood to be his intention to issue an address on the Conservative side. During the year, however, the post of Lord Justice of Appeal fell vacant by the resignation of Sir Richard Amphlett, and Mr. Thesiger was nominated to the vacant place. The appointment took most people by surprise.

Lord Justice Thesiger's startling and untimely death puts an end to those anticipations of his career to which his sudden and unexpected elevation to the Court of Appeal, three years ago, gave birth. There were persons who saw more in the appointment than an example of the prediction of Lord Beaconsfield—with whom, as Prime Minister, the nomination of Lords Justices rested, rather than with the Chancellor—for young men in the service of the State, and a graceful reparation for Mr. Disraeli's supersession of Lord Chelmsford in 1868. A parallel was drawn between the progress of Lord Cairns and that of Mr. Thesiger, and, in spite of the fact that the new Lord Justice had never been in the House of Commons, he was pointed at, with some confidence, as the future Conservative Chancellor. Whether there was any ground for a kind of prophecy not uncommon at such times among ingenious persons, it is now hardly likely that it will ever be known; but there was much in Lord Justice Thesiger's powers and position to support the theory that Lord Beaconsfield wished to hold him in reserve for the woollack. As a sound lawyer, an industrious worker, with a good presence and ample powers of expressing himself, and as bearing a reputation for integrity and honour something like that of the *preux chevalier*, Lord Justice Thesiger would not have brought discredit on the woollack. What he wanted was brilliance, and there are occasions when other qualities make up for the lack of it.

Lord Justice Thesiger's career conveys