

*THE LATE MR. JUSTICE STEPHEN.*

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Sir James Stephen, which took place on Sunday, March 11, at Redhouse Park, Ipswich. His health had been in a serious state for several months, and he had left his residence in De Vere Gardens, Kensington, and taken up his quarters in the country in the hope that the change of air and scene would improve his condition; but no favourable result followed, and he gradually succumbed to the illness which led to his retirement from the Bench nearly three years ago. He died at the age of sixty-five, after a life of arduous toil such as few men have been able to live. He came of a family of hard-workers, some of whom were distinguished as well as industrious. His grandfather, Mr. James Stephen, was a well-known Master in Chancery, and played a leading part in the anti-slavery movement, while his father, Sir James Stephen, was for a time Under Secretary of the Colonies, and was the author of 'Essays in Ecclesiastical Biography.' His only brother is Mr. Leslie Stephen, the eminent *littérateur*. Born at Kensington Gore on March 3, 1829, he was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated in 1852. The early part of his career, either at Cambridge or in the Temple, gave no indication of the eminence which belonged to his later years. He did not distinguish himself as a scholar at his University, and his rise at the Bar—to which he was called at the Inner Temple in 1854—was far from rapid. His qualities were not those of the advocate. His speeches were always models of lucidity; but his delivery was ponderous, and the accuracy of his views was not accompanied by rapidity of judgment. Five years after his call, however, he was appointed Recorder of Newark-on-Trent, and he obtained a moderate practice on circuit and at sessions. The first case to bring his name prominently before the public and the profession was the prosecution of the Rev. Roland Williams in the Court of Arches on a charge of heresy preferred against him by the Bishop of Salisbury. In this defence he obtained his first opportunity of displaying those extraordinary powers of research for which subsequently he became famous. The reputation he acquired in this ecclesiastical trial was strengthened by the part he played as one of the prosecuting counsel in the case of Governor Eyre. But it was in the fields of journalism and literature that his best work was done, during the fifteen years that elapsed between his call to