

termine" is given to few. Lord Halsbury was and is still one of the few. Go to any library which contains the decisions of the House of Lords for the last thirty years and then *si monumentum requiris, circumspice!* When sitting as Lord Chancellor he had a marvellous faculty of boiling down the lengthy arguments of counsel to a few terse sentences. Whole mountains of irrelevant matter would be swept on one side. The great black volume in which the proceedings in a case before the Supreme Court of Appeal are printed at such enormous length (and at such enormous cost to the litigant), had no terrors for the Lord Chancellor. He was never afraid of work; but from the midst of a mass of pleadings, correspondence, long-winded documents, affidavits, transcripts of shorthand notes of evidence and judgments of inferior tribunals his master mind would select the crucial point long before any of the counsel arguing before him had been able to find it.

IN PRIVATE LIFE.

In private life it may fairly be said that simplicity is a leading characteristic of this truly great man. The writer (who had only been called to the Bar a few years), once had the privilege of presiding at a dinner where Lord Halsbury was guest of the evening. He spoke words of encouragement on that occasion which have never been forgotten. After dinner (it was summer time), the Lord Chancellor walked back to his club along the Strand in evening dress, without an overcoat, and with a Gibus hat on his head.

Indeed his simplicity and hatred of ostentation was sometimes an embarrassment to those who entertained him. Under the shadow of Cannon Street Station, on the western side, runs a narrow street known as Dowgate Hill. In Dowgate Hill there stands the house of the Skinners Company. It is on record that Lord Halsbury, when still on the Woolsack, was a guest of the Master, Wardens and Commonalty of that Worshipful Company at one of their banquets. The entertainment was over. The guest of the evening was about to leave. The clerk was ready to see him off. Two flunkeys rushed forth into Dowgate Hill