

to the bar, the latter to determine the order of precedence.

Upon the receipt of this letter the barrister returns to the respective solicitors all the instructions for the preparation of the drafts of documents he may have before him, but he retains all his briefs.

Arrangements have then to be made for being sworn in, and formally taking his seat, and as there is not sufficient time between the receipt of the letter of appointment, and the day fixed for the ceremony, a dress wig and silk gown have to be borrowed from the wig maker, and thus arrayed, with the addition of knee breeches, silk stockings, and patent shoes with ornamental buckles, the newly-appointed Queen's Counsel attends at the private room of the Lord Chancellor, and there takes the following oath:—

"I do swear that well and truly I will serve the Queen as one of her Counsel learned in the law, and truly counsel the Queen in her matters when I shall be called, and duly and truly minister the Queen's matters and sue the Queen's process after the course of law and after my cunning. I will take no wages or fee of any man for any matter against the Queen where the Queen is party. I will duly, in convenient time, speed such matters as any person shall have to do in the law against the Queen as I may lawfully do without long delay, tracting or tarrying the party of his lawful process in that that to me belongeth. I will be attendant to the Queen's matters when I be called thereto."

The oath having been taken, each gentleman receives a box covered with crimson leather, containing his patent. This document is engrossed upon parchment, and has attached to it, by a plaited woollen cord, a wax seal of goodly dimensions, being about eighteen inches in circumference, and one-and-a-half inches thick.

The "Patent" is as follows:—

"Victoria, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, defender of the faith. To all to whom these presents shall come, know ye that we of our special grace have constituted, ordained, and appointed our trusty and well-beloved Gamma Delta, of the Temple, esquire, one of our Counsel learned in the law. And we have also given and granted unto him, as one of our Counsel aforesaid, place, precedence and pre-audience next after Alpha Beta, esquire, in our courts or elsewhere. And we also will and grant to the said Gamma Delta full power and sufficient authority to perform, do, and fulfil all and everything which any other of our Counsel learned in the law as one of our

said Counsel may do and fulfil. We will that this our grant shall not lessen any office by us or by our ancestors heretofore given or granted. As witness whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent. Witness ourself at Westminster the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ by the Queen herself. (Signed) X. Y. Z.  
Clerk of the Crown."

To formally take their seats in the various courts is the next thing to be done. On the day when this ceremony is appointed to take place, a visitor to the neighbourhood of the "Royal Courts" would not fail to notice an extra amount of excitement. Senior and junior counsel, solicitors and clerks, are awaiting at the entrances to the building the arrival of the newly-promoted gentlemen, discussing their merits, and the probabilities of their success or failure. The Appeal Court, where the ceremony first takes place, is speedily filled with barristers and visitors, among the latter being the wives, daughters or sisters of the gentlemen who have been appointed. The new Queen's Counsel, attired as when attending to be sworn in, presently enter, and stand at the end of the seat they will be entitled to occupy in future.

As soon as the judges enter and are seated a list of the new silks according to seniority is handed to the president and he calls upon each Counsel in turn by name to take his seat, using the words with which this article commences. The gentleman named passes to the centre of the seat, and bows to the judges, who bow to him in return. He then bows to the Queen's Counsel seated on the same bench, who rise and return salutations. He then turns to the barristers seated in the rear and bows to them, they also all rising and bowing in return, the wives, daughters and sisters seeming very much inclined to follow their example.

The new Q.C. then seats himself for an instant. "Do you move?" says the president, meaning "have you any motion or application to make to the court." The Counsel, although he may have a bag full of briefs marked with fabulous fees awaiting his attention, is oblivious of their existence for the time, and bows a negative, immediately departing to go through the same ceremony in the other courts in the building.

One other point of etiquette remains to be observed. Cards, upon each of which is engraved the Counsel's name, followed by the words, "On his appointment as one of Her Majesty's Counsel," are left at the private houses of each of the judges. This having been done, the barrister becomes a fully-fledged Q.C., and can sit within the bar and await the rush of leading briefs, which he confidently believes will follow his elevation.—*Tit-bits.*