

to the influence of Lord Randolph Churchill, followed immediately upon his election as the member for East Birmingham in 1886. He had not sat in the House of Commons for twenty years, his former constituency having been the Irish borough of Dungarvan, which he represented in the Liberal interest. Not long before his appointment as Home Secretary he attracted public attention by his brilliant speech in the *Dilke Divorce Case*.—*Law Journal*.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IN THE NEW ADMINISTRATION.—Sir Richard Webster, Q.C., has been appointed Attorney-General. This is the third time the honour has been conferred upon him. He was first chosen as the first law officer of the Crown in 1885. The distinction was due entirely to his eminent position at the Bar, for he had not a seat in the House of Commons at the time, and had not rendered his party any exceptional service in the political world. The second occasion on which he became the head of the Bar was on the formation of the Conservative Administration in 1886, and he held the office for the unusually long period of six years. His tenure of office was distinguished, among other things, by his appearance before the Parnell Commission on behalf of the *Times*. His career has been singularly rapid. The son of Mr. Thomas Webster, Q.C., he was born fifty-two years ago, and was educated at Charterhouse and at Cambridge. At the university he was distinguished as an athlete as well as a scholar, and he continues to take an interest in the athletic world. He was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1868, and ten years later the honor of silk was conferred upon him. The interval between his call and his appointment as Queen's Counsel is the shortest on record. From 1872 to 1874 he was 'tubman' of the Court of Exchequer, and from the latter year to 1878 he held the office of 'postman.' Within seven years of becoming one of Her Majesty's Counsel he was made chief legal adviser to the Crown. He represented the Isle of Wight in the late House of Commons. He is a member of numerous scientific and other societies. One of the highest tributes paid to his eminent position at the Bar was when he was chosen by the late Government to appear with Sir Charles Russell on behalf of England at the Behring Sea Arbitration in Paris.—*ib.*