

law which he administered, the soundness of his application, and his desire to do justice, which never yielded to any other motive, ensured a right judgment in every case. In the clearer light of later years some faults he had are more apparent, but all who seek judicial excellence would do well to study his life on the bench and, in large measure, to follow the path by which he passed to the great eminence that he reached.

The year 1750 is the birth year of two noted English lawyers—Erskine and Ellenborough. The first, the foremost advocate of his own and perhaps of any time, was also Lord Chancellor, and the other became Chief Justice of the King's Bench and as such enjoyed an ascendancy that few Judges have had. Erskine's enthusiastic, gifted and intrepid nature fitted better into the stress and excitement of life at the bar, and the administration of the dry doctrines of the Court of Chancery, with which his previous experience had not made him familiar, added nothing to his reputation during his short term of office. But Lord Ellenborough's is a name to conjure with. In him the law seemed to be vitalized. When he spoke men rendered respect and obedience. Like a true successor of Lord Coke, he was unwavering in his independence as faultless in his understanding as he was thorough and comprehensive in his knowledge of the law. Yet with all his gifts and learning his qualities of manner and presence entered largely into his judicial reputation, and there is perhaps no more striking instance among English Judges of the part that mere personality plays in the respect and authority which a Judge acquires. In his strong and able hands all felt a sense of security, and he ruled without question in the Court of King's Bench. His career on the bench was marred only by his rough and overbearing manner, a thing apparently inseparable from some natures when raised to high position, and a fault common to more than one English Judge of justly great reputation. In Lord Ellenborough's case, as Lord Campbell has well said, the defect is forgotten, "while men bear in willing recollection his unspotted integrity, his sound learning, his vigorous intellect, and his manly intrepidity in the discharge of his duty."