

did not, in the slightest degree, contribute to any part of the injury which the plaintiff sustained by reason of the explosion." --*Central Law Journal*.

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EARL CAIRNS—A CHARACTER SKETCH.—The external facts in Lord Cairns' career may be summarily disposed of. Most educated men are familiar with his story. Hugh McCalmont Cairns was the son of a captain in the Irish army, (?) and was born at Cultva, County Down, in 1819. He was carefully educated, first at Belfast Academy, and afterwards at Trinity College, Dublin, where he graduated with first-class honours in 1838. His father originally designed him for the church, but by the wise advice of his college tutor, and in accordance with his own wishes, he was sent to England, to prepare for the Irish bar. He was called to the Bar of the Middle Temple in January, 1844, but migrated to Lincoln's Inn. Cairns at first intended to return to Ireland, but on the suggestion of Mr. Richard Malins, afterwards a vice-chancellor, in whose chambers he had read, he determined to remain in London and fight his way through the crowd of junior barristers who were struggling to impress their personality on the legal life of the metropolis. Although without influence other than that of his own transcendent ability, Cairns rose rapidly through the customary grades of distinction to the highest legal and political eminence.

In July, 1852, he entered Parliament as member for Belfast. Four years later he was raised to the dignity of one of "Her Majesty's Counsel, learned in the law." In 1858 he became Solicitor-General, and delivered his memorable speech in the House of Commons upon Mr. Cardwell's motion to censure the conduct of Lord Ellenborough in India, which Disraeli characterized in his official letter to the Queen as one of the greatest orations ever made in Parliament. In 1866 Cairns was raised to the Attorney-Generalship, and on the retirement of Sir I. Knight Bruce he became a Lord Justice of Appeal. In February, 1867, he was created a Privy Councillor, and entered the House of Lords as Baron Cairns of Garmoyle. In February, 1868, Mr. Disraeli became Prime Minister, and passing over Lord Chelmsford, in the words of the latter, "with less courtesy than if he had been a butler," he promoted Cairns to the Lord