

been singularly retired and uneventful, for he was a man alike devoid of vanity and of ambition; yet those who knew the strength and purity of his unobtrusive career, place him, without hesitation, in the very highest rank of English lawyers; and even to the public his name, associated with some of the most enlightened and important judgments of modern times, carried a degree of weight not always attached to names of higher official authority. The predominant quality of Lord Kingsdown's character was a fastidious refinement, which removed him altogether from the common pursuits of fame and power. "No breath of popularity," as he once expressed it, "ever touched his sail." But, if he was sensitive to the shortcomings and imperfections of others, he was not less exacting in all that concerned himself. Nothing satisfied him in his own productions short of the highest perfection which he was able to attain. Many of his judgments were written several times over; all were revised with elaborate minuteness. In 1858, when the Great Seal was offered him, he had already quitted the Court of Chancery for 15 years, and, strange as it may seem, we suspect that the reason which mainly determined his refusal was a distrust of his ability to perform the duties of the Chancellor, after so long an interval, in a manner entirely adequate to his conception of their importance. Perhaps it is fortunate for the world that not all men are equally scrupulous or conscientious. Lord Kingsdown's qualities as a judge were held by those who sat with him in the administration of justice to be literally unrivalled. The mind he brought to bear on the questions before him was deep, clear, and unruffled; his patience was inexhaustible; his sense of justice and of right even more acute than his love of legal precision and accuracy. He searched and brought out the juridical principle of which the law itself is but the form and expression; and he aimed at framing the decisions of the Court on large grounds of analogy and reason. The wide jurisdiction of the Privy Council was

favourable to the application of these principles. The appellate jurisdiction of the Crown over the colonial courts of either hemisphere is now almost the sole link which holds together the British Empire. We have abandoned colonial legislation, we grudge military defence, but the Privy Council is still regarded throughout the colonies as the supreme expositor of the laws of the Empire. That moral influence of a British tribunal is still unshaken; and its authority has in our times been largely augmented by the wisdom, temper, and equity which Lord Kingsdown gave to it." The death of Lord Kingsdown reduces the number of Law Lords to nine, but of these, Lords Brougham, St Leonards, and Wensleydale are precluded by age from discharging their judicial functions. The highest Court of Appeal consists, in fact, of six or eight working members, though nominally numbering about thirty.

RIGHT HON. FRANCIS BLACKBURNE.

The late Lord Chancellor of Ireland was born in 1782, called to the bar in 1805, and became King's Counsel in 1822. After having twice held the office of Attorney-General, he was appointed Master of the Rolls in 1842, and Chief-Justice of the Queen's Bench in 1846. In 1852, he was made Lord Chancellor, an office which he held only a few months, in consequence of Lord Derby leaving office. In 1856, he was appointed by Lord Palmerston Lord Justice of Appeal, but again became Lord Chancellor when the present Government assumed office. Failing health compelled him to resign a few months previous to his death, which occurred on the 17th of September, 1867.

THE TRIBUNALS AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE IN THE EMPIRE OF FRANCE.

We have already given the greater portion of the Hon. I. F. REDFIELD's observations on the Administration of Justice in England. The following, under date Paris, July 20th, is the result of his observations in France.

"One can hardly compare the Courts in