

JUDICIAL SENTIMENTS—ITEMS—THE LATE SIR FREDERICK POLLOCK.

bespeak the Chief Justice to be not only manly, independent and free from servility to popular clamour, but as having a high sense of what the bench and the bar owe to their country and themselves. But at the same time, the words show that corrupting influences have gone so far that he feels it to be not merely idle, but wrong and unpatriotic to pretend to gloss over their results.

Men, who, like Chief Justice Lawrence, would courageously dare in the face of an excitable nation, whose national self appreciation amounts to a mania, and on a public occasion to state their convictions of the corruptions, social, political and judicial, existing in their country, might well be looked upon as the saviours of their country. The words are also weighty with caution to those who blindly admire the external glitter of that state of things which is above portrayed.

We have seen* what such periodicals as the *American Law Review* have said of the gross corruptions in the judiciary, in some of the States. Unless there are sufficient of those who act up to the sentiments of Chief Justice Lawrence, it may well be feared that when he trusts to the judiciary to help to save the country, he leans upon a broken reed.

We are sorry to notice the death, on the 30th ultimo, of Mr. Prince, Judge of the Algoma District, better known to the public as Colonel Prince. We shall refer to the subject again.

A correspondent of the *Albany Law Journal*, writing from England, gives a flowery description of the proceedings at an assize town, before and at the opening of the court, and describes the old-fashioned ceremonies and curious attire of the judge and officials engaged, and the interest manifested by the public in the proceedings. He concludes thus: "A fellow-traveller said, 'An American judge could not be hired to go through that exhibition.'" Possibly not. But it would appear, if American writers are to be believed, that American judges can be "hired" to do things which would make the ears of the meanest tipstaff in an English court of justice to tingle.

* Ante Vol. IV, p. 301.

SELECTIONS.

THE LATE SIR FREDERICK POLLOCK.

At the bar Mr. Pollock, who died on 29th August last, rose into practice with a rapidity which finds no example in our day of keener competition and stronger personal interest. The Northern Circuit was the scene of his early success. He possessed faculties which could not fail to commend him to attorneys: an accurate and comprehensive memory, acute perception, perfect mastery of monetary accounts and the course of mercantile business, unwearied industry, and, above all, that peculiar power over the mind of his audience which never forsook him even in the final stage of his legal career. As counsel in general causes he was infinitely superior to Brougham, who, as a member of the same circuit and commanding business by his political fame, was one of his most frequent antagonists. But while the mind of Brougham was dissipating itself over a multitude of themes, social, philosophical, and parliamentary, to such an extent as to lead him to the comparative neglect of the briefs of humbler clients, Pollock never failed to bring the whole force of his gigantic intellect to bear upon the particular cause before him. Brougham won glory, but Pollock won verdicts. It is impossible at this distance of time, when all his legal contemporaries are silent in the grave, to state the exact measure of his success on the Northern Circuit, but we suppose that no counsel ever reaped a more golden harvest, or more thoroughly enjoyed the confidence of his clients and of the public on any circuit.

As a politician Mr. Pollock was a follower of Sir Robert Peel, as far as concerned the leadership of that statesman up to the year 1844. We have no means of judging how far he would have adhered to Sir Robert in the last epoch of the Peelite reign. It is enough to say that though a true Conservative he was a man of broad and liberal views, and not by any means disposed to base his policy upon mere party considerations.

As a judge he was master of his art. In the first place, his excellence was universal. He was great in banco and great at Nisi Prius. The whole page of law lay open before his eyes familiar to him as household words. His memory for precedent was not less remarkable than his grasp of the principles of jurisprudence, and he had power to express in terse and lucid language correct and just ideas. Perhaps in the public eye he was most eminent in criminal trials and at Nisi Prius. No one who has heard him can forget the extraordinary influence which he was capable of exercising over the mind of a jury. After speeches from counsel of length and eloquence, the Lord Chief Baron would turn to the jury, and in a few sentences of marvellous force impress them with his view of the case, smash-