

Lord Lindley was no politician, but a great lawyer and a great Judge—indeed, he will take rank among the greatest of the Victorian Age. In length of service he had few rivals; he had the unusual experience of being promoted from the Chancery Bar to the Common Law Bench; he was the last of the Serjeants-at-Law, and the last of those who had ever sat in the historic Court of the Exchequer Chamber.”

THE ENGLISH BENCH—CHANGES AND TITLES.

The elevation of Sir Alfred Tristram Lawrence to the High position of Lord Chief Justice of England was followed by his being created a Peer. This is in accordance with the precedent of the three previous Chief Justices who were elevated to the peerage, Lords Coleridge, Almonston and Reading, and a discussion has arisen in connection with the above incident. It is also stated that in some ways it is useful for the Lord Chief Justice to be in the House of Lords. The Law Times speaking on this subject says that this practice is strictly in accordance with an almost unbroken custom since the appointment to Chief Justice Murray (Lord Mansfield 1756). The only Chief Justice without a peerage since 1756 has been Sir Alexander Cockburn who repeatedly declined the honour.

In connection with this subject it occurs to us to mention that it would be a convenience to the public and save some search to have at least all life peerages under the surname of the appointee. After the lapse of a very short time the identity of some one well known to the profession and the public is lost by his taking a title which indicates nothing as to his former career. For example why should we have to enquire who Lord Birkenhead was? We all knew him by the good old honest name he bore in previous years. Why should we not know without enquiry that the Viceroy of India once bore a name honoured by the Hebrew race, which had nothing to do with the Town of Reading. Even lawyers cannot be expected to remember everything.