

Follett, Sumner says, is 'a consummate lawyer,' 'the best of all,' 'a delightful man, simple, amiable, and unaffected as a child.' 'He has extended the hand of friendship to me in a most generous way. His reputation in the profession is truly colossal, second only to that of Lord Mansfield; in his manners he is simple and amiable as a child; he is truly lovable.' Brougham said in 1838 there were no good speakers at the bar except Follett and Pemberton. Talfourd's first acquaintance with Follett was when the latter was a student, or just after his call to the bar, in getting him released from arrest early one morning for scaling the walls of the Temple. Follett's perception of legal principles and reasoning was intuitive, apparently almost without effort. 'With all the praise accorded to him from judges, lawyers, and even from Sir Peter Lawrie (ex-mayor), who thought him the greatest lawyer he ever knew, it does not seem to be thought that he has remarkable general talents or learning. They say he has 'a genius for the law;' but Hayward, of the *Law Magazine*, says he is 'a kind of law-mill; put in a brief, and there comes out an argument, without any particular exertion, study, or previous attainment. I have heard him several times. He is uniformly bland, courteous, and conversational in his style; and has never yet produced the impression of power upon me.' Sumner attributes Follett's early success to his amiability. As a speaker he was fluent, clear and distinct, with a beautiful and harmonious voice. His business was immense—£15,000 annually—and many of his briefs he hardly read before rising in court. He was equally successful in the House of Commons, where Sumner often heard him called for. His early death prevented his probable elevation to the Lord Chancellorship.

Of Wilde, afterward Lord Chancellor, Sumner speaks as the most industrious person at the English bar, often working from six o'clock in the morning until two the next morning; a man of great power, but harsh and unamiable, with an immense practice; supreme in the Common Pleas, with a great influence over Chief-Justice Tindal; in person short and stout, with a vulgar face; his voice not agreeable, but his manner singularly energetic and intense; reminding Sumner of Webster; his language having none of the charms of literature, but

correct, expressive, and to the purpose; in manners, to his friends, warm and affable; entertaining very elevated views of professional conduct. He told Sumner that he should not hesitate to cite a case that bore against him, if he thought the court and opposite counsel were not aware of it. Early in his career he had taken advantage of a trust relation and purchased for himself, and in consequence was banished from the circuit table, and after did not mingle with the bar, or if he did, it was with a downcast manner. Sumner predicted that the government, anxious to avail itself of his great talents, might overlook his offense, but that society would not. As to the government, Sumner was right, for Wilde afterward became Solicitor-General, Attorney-General, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and Lord Chancellor, with the title of Baron Truro.

Charles Austin, the great parliamentary lawyer, Sumner describes as 'one of the cleverest, most enlightened, and agreeable men in London,' and in his judgment the first lawyer in England; a fine scholar, deeply versed in English literature and the British Constitution; a more animated speaker than Follett, perhaps not so smooth and gentle, nor so ready and instinctively sagacious in a law argument, but immeasurably before him in accomplishments and liberality of views; the only jurist in Westminster Hall; in conversation very interesting, full of knowledge, information, literature, and power of argument; in politics a decided but rational liberal; brilliant and clever, all informed, and master of his own profession, take him all in all the greatest honor of the English bar.

Campbell, the Attorney-General, afterward Lord Chancellor, and author of the 'Lives of the Lord Chancellors and Chief Justices,' gets a passing notice. A very powerful lawyer, laborious, plodding, with great natural powers, unadorned by any of the graces, able, dry, and uninteresting. His manner was coarse and harsh, without delicacy or refinement, his accent marked Scotch. Not liked by the bar, all bowed to his powers. As to his politics, the best account is derived from one of Sumner's stories. Lord Plunkett inquired of him the meaning of 'locofoco,' and he defined it 'a very ultra-radical;' whereupon Follett and Pollock both laughed, and cried out to the Attorney-