

American Secretary of State, had unfortunately and unwisely replied. Less trivial circumstances have ere now plunged nations into the horrors of war. But the relations between Great Britain and America, though strained, were happily not ruptured. A Mixed Commission to adjudicate upon the matter generally, and upon the outstanding claims in particular, was appointed; and the *Gazette* for November 16, 1853, announced the nomination of James Hannen, Esquire, as agent for Great Britain before the commissioners. The Mixed Commission sat in London from 1853 to 1854 or 1855; it settled the immediate difficulties between England and the United States, and it brought at the same time to Sir James Hannen both reputation and practice. Cases of a sensational character Hannen never received, and could not have conducted with success. But heavy arbitrations, solid mercantile questions, difficult points of law sought out his chambers instinctively, and departed thence settled and solved. In the course of time he became Treasury 'devil.' In modern legal nomenclature, the 'devil' has no Satanic significance. In its generic character, it is a term applied to a junior barrister who digests cases, and occasionally holds briefs, for an overburdened senior. These services are not always paid for—at least directly. But the devil gains experience—at the cost of his leader's clients—establishes a claim to his employer's good offices in the future, and eventually forms a connection of his own. The Treasury devil is the highest species of this important order of beings. He is the junior counsel to the government, is briefed in all heavy Crown cases, enjoys, besides, a lucrative private practice, and has a reversionary right to puisne judgeship, without being expected either to take part in politics or to become a Queen's Counsel. Lord Justice Bowen, Mr. Justice Mathew, and Mr. Justice A. L. Smith are types of this class. During his tenure of office of Treasury devil, Sir James Hannen was called upon to take part in several important cases—the trial of Franz Müller for the murder of Mr. Briggs, the strange action raised by the *soi-disant* Princess Olive, and the prosecution of the Manchester 'martyrs.' He was also engaged in the great Matlock will case, when Lord Chief Justice Cockburn was almost persuaded to believe in expert testimony by the remarkable evidence of the lithographer, Charles Chabot (1816-1882). In 1865 Sir James Hannen made an unsuccessful attempt in the Liberal interest to oust Mr. Stephen Cave,