

efforts to fit themselves for their important work and to improve the systems of law which they administered. He was careless and immethodical, and, if current report spoke the truth, he was even sometimes content to deputize the writing of his opinions. No taint or suspicion of corruption ever rested upon him, but impartial consideration of his conduct forces the conclusion that to Lord Thurlow the holding of his high office was more important than its efficient and useful administration.

It is not often that from one family come two such men as the brothers William and John Scott. Both won great reputations as Judges and both lived to extreme old age. The elder, Lord Stowell, died past ninety and was hardly less honoured for his charming and cultivated personality than for the soundness and learning of his judgments in admiralty and international law. John Scott, familiar to every lawyer as Lord Eldon, almost reached his brother's years, for he died in 1838, in his eighty-seventh year. Although his judicial life had closed ten years earlier, for more than twenty years prior to his relinquishment of the Great Seal he had sat continuously in the Court of Chancery, a longer tenure of that high office than any Chancellor enjoyed except Lord Hardwicke. Lord Campbell has thought fit to call attention to many serious defects that Lord Eldon possessed as a Judge, and it is certain that he was dilatory in the discharge of judicial business and was of that turn of mind which abhors all change and opposes reform intended for the correction of existing abuses. But difference of political views, and the sharp antagonism that this frequently brought about, may explain much of Lord Campbell's unfavourable comment. It is well to remember also that the latter's trustworthiness as a biographer has been severely questioned. Even the somewhat hostile atmosphere of the "Lord Chancellors" does not becloud the great qualities that marked Lord Eldon's judicial career, and that explain the reverence in which his name is held. Probably no one has surpassed him in that characteristic which a Judge ought to acquire, if he does not possess it by nature, of courteous and patient consideration for the counsel who appear before him. His complete knowledge and understanding of the