

LATE LORD JUSTICE CLERK OF SCOTLAND—SELF-SATISFACTION EXTRAORDINARY.

SELECTIONS.

THE LATE LORD JUSTICE CLERK OF SCOTLAND.

The body of the Lord Justice Clerk of Scotland was recovered from the bed of the river Almond, just below Buchanty Spout, on Friday last, and we regret to say that no doubt can be entertained that the unfortunate gentleman met his death by his own act. The *Scotsman*, after giving full details of the recovery of the body by the exertions of Malloch, the Perth boatman, says that on being brought to the bank the body was taken charge of by Constable Wilson, of the county constabulary. Malloch, the boatman, was immediately driven to Perth, where he communicated his discovery to Mr. Jameson, procurator fiscal, and Mr. Gordon, chief constable of the county. At a quarter past five o'clock the procurator fiscal and Dr. Absolon left Perth for Glenalmond House, for the purpose of making a *post-mortem* examination.

After the discovery of the body, the spot where the razor case and necktie were found on Tuesday afternoon was visited with renewed interest. It now seemed but too evident that the case had been one of suicide, and the whole circumstances pointed to the inference that there had been deliberate premeditation. It will be remembered that the articles referred to, were found on a bank overhanging the fall of Buchanty. The deceased appears to have advanced to the edge of the bank, which stands about five or six feet above the torrent, to have there cut his throat, and then allowed himself to fall backwards, instinctively clutching, as he fell, the ash sapling growing on the bank, which was subsequently found with bloody finger-marks. The body would be swept at once into the deep pool below the linn, from which it subsequently drifted downwards to the pool where it was discovered.

The Right Hon. George Patton was the third son of James Patton, Esq., of Glenalmond, sheriff clerk of Perthshire, by Anne, daughter of Thomas Marshall, Esq. He was born at Perth, in 1803, and was consequently in his sixty-seventh year. He received his early education at the academy of that city, from which he was sent to the University of Edinburgh, and subsequently to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took the English declamation prize. He was admitted a member of the Faculty of Advocates in 1828. His politics were staunch Conservative, and when Lord Derby came into office in 1859, he was appointed Solicitor-General for Scotland. In 1866, he became Lord Advocate, and was elected member for Bridgewater, which he contested twice at great expense. In the same year he was raised to the dignity of Lord Justice Clerk in room of Lord Colonsay as Lord Justice General. About the same time he was made a member of the Privy

Council. He was married in 1857 to Margaret, daughter of General Alexander Bethune, of Blebo, who survives him, and who has no issue. The paternal estate of Glenalmond has been occupied by three brothers in succession—first by James Patton, second by Thomas (who died suddenly three weeks ago), and most recently by the late judge. It will now, in all probability, pass to the unmarried sister of his Lordship, who resides in Perth, and is the only survivor of the family.

It is stated that the vacant office of Lord Justice Clerk has been offered to the Lord Advocate (Mr. Moncreiff), and that he has intimated his acceptance of it.

SELF-SATISFACTION EXTRAORDINARY.

Clement Harwood, with the aid of forgery and the falsification of books, robbed his employers of £15,000. His name was placarded all over the country, and a reward was offered for his apprehension. He was captured in New York, brought to England, charged before the Lord Mayor, and superabundant evidence was offered in proof of the guilt of the prisoner. At an adjourned examination the counsel for the prosecution was instructed to withdraw the charge, explaining that the prisoner, who is the son of the senior partner of the firm he robbed, was to be sent abroad. The Lord Mayor dismissed the case, and Clement Harwood was free. We suppose that it would not be easy to cite a more palpable instance of the miscarriage of justice. Because Clement Harwood has rich connections he escapes from the punishment that would surely have happened to a thief whose connections were poor. So far as we are aware, no one has attempted to defend the conduct of the Lord Mayor. What of that? His Lordship is perfectly satisfied with his own conduct. On Monday a deputation from the ward of Walbrook presented him with his portrait. His Lordship said 'There was not one matter which had been brought before him in his magisterial capacity with respect to which he could feel the slightest regret.' Happy Lord Mayor! What a comfort it is to have faith in one's own infallibility! His Lordship added, 'He did not hesitate to say that of all the cases that had come before him none had produced, in the result, greater satisfaction in his own mind than that of Clement Harwood.' This is perplexing. Grant for a moment that the conduct of the Lord Mayor was proper, we are still at a loss to understand why the dismissal of that prisoner should have delighted the worshipful chief magistrate of the city of London. If we are driven to suggest a possible solution of the enigma, we can only assume that the Lord Mayor felt an exquisite delight in being able to save the son of the senior partner of a city firm from penal servitude. His Lordship further said: 'There was not a man in this