

attendance at the common law courts is irksome and inconvenient to suitors in such a vast city ; there are often delays, and costs are heavy. So settlement by arbitration is coming into fashion. Moreover, most of the questions which formerly led to actions at law have been settled by the Legislature, or by judicial decisions which have almost equal authority, and it is more and more difficult to discover any new principle in the judgments of the day. The times are growing harder for barristers, but solicitors probably maintain their ground better, the decline of litigation having little effect upon the most profitable class of business, viz., that of solicitors to corporations and large concerns, managers of estates and family property, and the conduct of other non-contentious business. When this business is divided, however, among the ten thousand attorneys on the roll, the share of the majority is probably not felt to be excessive.

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The London *Law Journal* notes the fact that on August 13 Lord Esher, the Master of the Rolls, completed his eightieth year. "There is little either in his physical or his mental qualities," adds our contemporary, "to suggest the octogenarian. His grasp of facts is as firm, his sayings as caustic, and his judgments as vigorous as ever they were. His active connection with the law covers a period of nearly half a century. He was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in January, 1846. In August, 1868, he was raised to the Bench as a judge of the Common Pleas. His judicial career covers, therefore, a period of twenty-seven years. Eight years later he was appointed a Lord Justice of Appeal, and upon the death of Sir George Jessel in the spring of 1883, he was promoted to the office of Master of the Rolls. He is the oldest, but in some respects the youngest man on the Bench."