

form in procession, and enter on the left hand of the principal court first—the senior leading—and stands by the inner bar. The judge then addresses him thus: “Mr. A. B., Her Majesty having been pleased to appoint you one of Her Majesty’s counsel, learned in the law, you will take your seat within the Bar.”

He then enters within, bends to the judge, then bends to the Q.C.’s within the Bar, who all rise and return the compliment. He then turns right round and bends to the outer Bar, who in their turn all rise.

He then takes his seat, and the judge again addressing him, says: “Mr. A. B., do you move?” Whereupon he rises and bends, and the judge returns the bow; and then Mr. A. B. moves off on the right hand side of the court.

And this ceremonial is repeated in each of the Superior Courts, and thus ends the ceremony of “taking silk.”

Mr. Webb remarks that it is customary in any Crown case for the Q.C. retained contra to apply for a license, which is granted, as of course, upon payment of some small fee. The Oaths Commissioners recommended that in altering the form of this oath the words “with license of Her Majesty” should be inserted where marked\*.

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THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF ENGLAND.—Hardinge Stanley Giffard, Baron Halsbury, the present Lord Chancellor of England, is the third son of the late Stanley Lees Giffard, LL.D.,—for more than a quarter of a century the editor of the *Standard* newspaper,—and was born in 1825.

“Early Struggles,” “Silk,” “Office,” “Knighthood,” and “The Woolsack,”—these are the necessary chapters in the biography of a Lord Chancellor; and the external facts in Lord Halsbury’s career range themselves under the usual headings naturally and appropriately. He was admitted as a student of the Inner Temple in 1847, was called to the bar in 1850, assumed the silk robes of a Queen’s Counsel in 1865, was raised to the Solicitor-Generalship and received the honour of knighthood in 1875, and just ten years later became Lord Chancellor. After having twice contested Cardiff unsuccessfully in the Conservative interest, Lord Halsbury, then Sir Hardinge Giffard, Solicitor-General, was elected member of Parliament for Launceston in 1877, and continued to represent that constituency till his promotion to the woolsack.

The traditions of the Temple declare the attainment at once of strictly professional and of political or administrative eminence to be well-nigh impossible. There are lawyers and there are politicians in the High Court of Justice; but the politicians are not lawyers, and the lawyers, for the most part, are not politicians. Sir William Harcourt, for instance, is a powerful parliamentary debater and an astute party leader, but his ignorance of law is a standing joke in the House of Commons. Sir Horace Davey, again, has forgotten more law than Sir William Harcourt ever knew, and will take his place in legal history with Benjamin and Selborne and Cairns, but many third-rate politicians are greater than he. Sir Henry James alone among living advocates has taken a double first, in politics and in law. His defence of Mr. Justice Keogh in the famous