

Carlyle says, "never condensed into thunderbolts." Those who were hardest hit never felt the sting rankle, for no venom winged the shaft, as they knew, and kinder heart never beat beneath the ermine. The anecdote which we recently reproduced showed how keenly he could feel for those whom it was his duty judicially to condemn.

Retirement must always be blended with sadness, both for the judge who quits his illustrious post and for those who remain behind to regret him; but it ought to be no slight consolation to the Master of the Rolls to feel, as he may justly feel, in retiring that he has added not a little to the greatness and glory of the noble edifice of English law by his judicial record, and that he carries with him into his well-earned repose the respect, the admiration, and the love of every member of the legal profession.

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THE ENGLISH AND UNITED STATES PRACTITIONER.—The writer of an article in the *American Law Review* on "American Lawyers and their Making" says: "As to the relative merits of the English and American practitioner, it is almost impossible to speak. Nothing could be less worthy of praise than the lower type of lawyer in the United States. It is not exacted or expected that he should be a gentleman, a man of education or intelligence, and the safeguards against dishonesty or bad character are almost as slight as against incompetency. A Western chief justice, however, recently said in my hearing that an American lawyer of distinctly secondary rank in this country had, when nearly fifty years of age, been called to the English Bar, and been able thereafter to win, perhaps, the first place at that Bar, if we may judge by the consideration of his fellows or by his fee-book. He referred, of course, to the late Mr. Benjamin. No similar case of an English lawyer winning the first eminence at the American Bar is recalled." The honour of being the most candid critic of the American Bar among the foreigners who have discussed its character is given to Mr. Bryce, who in his "American Commonwealth" writes, "Notwithstanding this laxity, the level of legal attainment is, in some cities, as high or higher than among either the barristers or the solicitors of London. This is due to the extraordinary excellence of many of the law schools. I do not know if there is anything in which America has advanced more beyond the mother country than in the provision she makes for legal education."