Judge Kelly

Loyola Law School Los Angeles

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That political life which is the necessary stepping-stone to such a dignity betrayed, however, the just expectation that might have been founded upon it. Returned for Ipswich in 1835, he had to meet a petition which unseated him, and when defending himself a charge was made against him of an irregularity in proceeding, the memory of which has ever since been a stumbling-block in his career. Two years later he succeeded in making good his claim to a seat in the House of Commons, and soon became in succession Solicitor-General and Attorney-General; but John Pilgrim was never forgotten, and Mr. Kelly was long passed over and relegated to a comparative obscurity, which his worth rendered all the more REMARKABLE.<BR>At last he was called, five years ago, to that position of Lord Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer which he now so admirably fills, and in which he compels the recognition by all men of his power and rectitude.<BR><BR>JERU JUNIOR.<BR><BR>VANITY FAIR.<BR>LONDON, NOVEMBER 4, 1871.<BR><BR>JUDGES.—No. IV.<BR><BR>THE RIGHT HON. SIR FITZ ROY EDWARD KELLY.<BR><BR>In a country where, as in England, the political, social, and religious systems are so closely intertwined that a capability of satisfying the requirements of all is necessary to success in either of them, it necessarily happens that the best men in each department are not usually to be found in the foremost positions. We are continually compelled to accept in Politics the worse politician because he makes the better social figure; in Theology the worse theologian because he is the better politician; in Law the worse lawyer because he is the better religionist. The happy combination of pre-emminence in one department and of sufficient superiority in all is so seldom found, that some of the most remarkable men modern England has produced are by the fatal necessity of the situation precluded from serving their country in those highest positions which best beft them.<BR><BR>Such has been the case with Sir Fitz Roy Kelly. Born seventy-five years ago, he was destined from an early age for the Bar; and as soon as he had won for himself a hearing, he gave the promise, which he has since richly fulfilled, of that clear intellect, great ability, and conscientious industry which entitle him to rank among the preeminent lawyers of the day. An advocate he has achieved the most brilliant successes. He saved a Chartist from the extreme penalty of high treason, and he won for his possessors the vast Bridgewater estates and the premier earldoms of England, Ireland, and Scotland; having in two of the cases for supporter, and in one for opponent, that Mr. Bethell who was perhaps his only equal. He has taken also a most active part in the consolidation of the Statute Law; he proposed, and finally succeeded in effecting, one of the greatest of our modern law reforms; in the abolition of capital punishment for all offences save those of murder and high treason; and one of his latest achievements in Parliament was a masterly advocacy of the claims of the Nawab of the Carnatic. Endowed with parts, which he had sedulously cultivated, blessed by Nature with a fitting presence, and distinguished by the courteous demeanour which commonly accompanies a sense of superiority, he seemed certainly destined to attain to that woosack which should be the seat of the highest legal ability.