
1956

Lord Coleridge

Vanity Fair

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MEN OF THE DAY. No. 1154.

LORD COLERIDGE.

BY happy accident, Lord Coleridge is the maker of two records : he is the first peer who ever practised at the Bar, and the first English judge who has had a father and a grandfather judges. His father, as everyone knows, brought it to Lord Chief Justice of England and a peerage, and this Lord Chief Justice was the eldest son of his father, who for twenty-three years was himself a judge of high repute. Lord Coleridge has told the story of his family in the book "The Story of a Devonshire House."

Naturally enough, Lord Coleridge was brought up to study law. After the usual education at Eton and Trinity College, Oxford, he became a barrister, then Member for Sheffield, 1885-94, then Bencher of Middle Temple, and at length a judge. In Parliament he was a Gladstonian Liberal, and he followed politics for a good many years zealously, but he found the law a jealous mistress, and at length gave his entire energies to it. It is Lord Coleridge's opinion that the less judges have to do with politics the better.

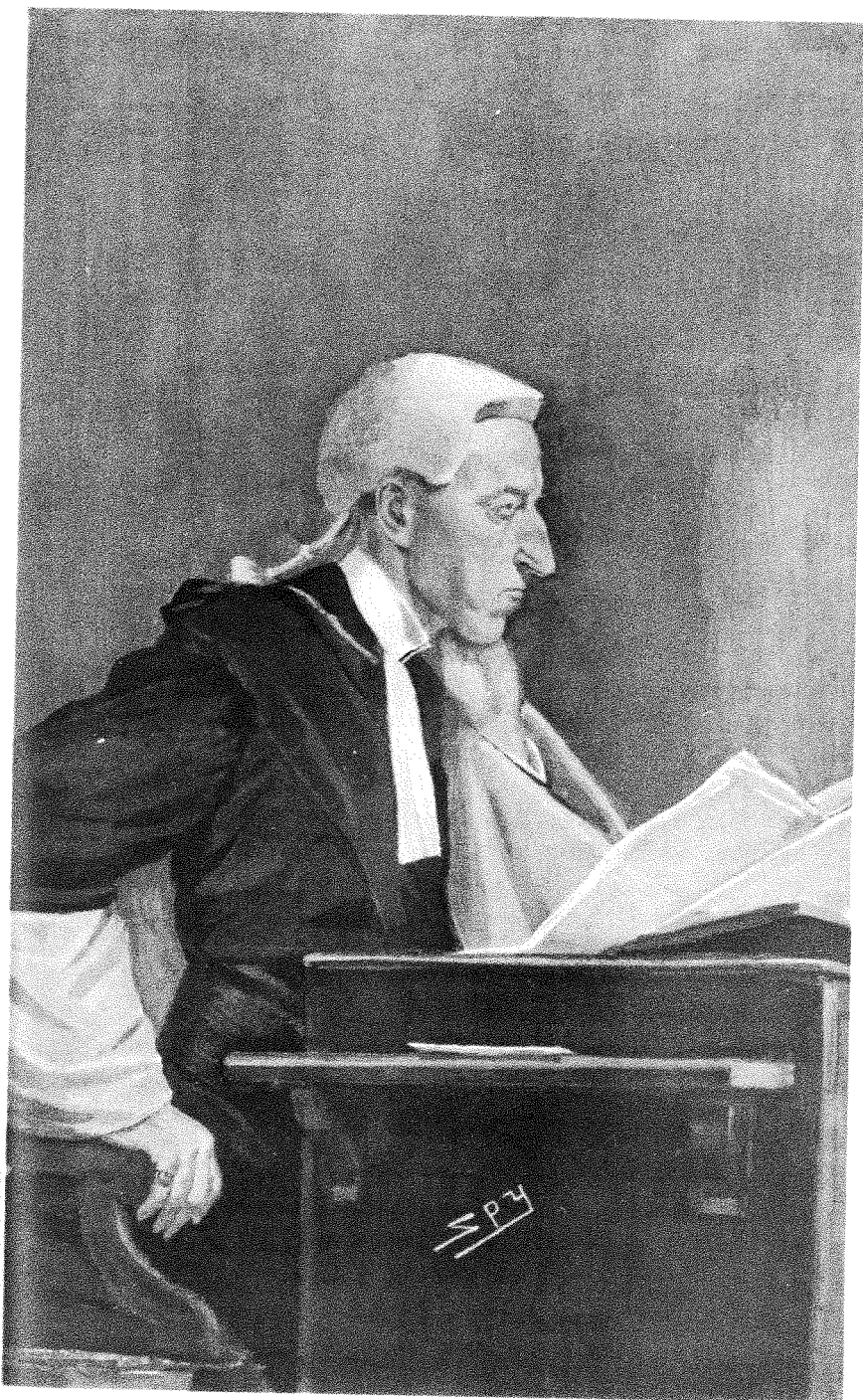
Lord Coleridge does not care particularly for any form of sport : without any wish to judge others, he can take no pleasure in any pastime involving cruelty, either to animals or to human beings : yet he loves the activities of the body, and finds, as he says, the open air and a field with hedges round it and here and there a tree, beautiful enough to satisfy any soul of man. He is a great walker, and as a young man went over the greater part of England and Wales with a knapsack, a stick, and a dog.

A passionate lover of Nature, Lord Coleridge is a lover of high poetry, too, which he declares has been the solace and delight of all the years of his life. His home is in Devon, which he counts the fairest county in England, and he grudges the time spent away from The Chanter's House in Ottery St. Mary, to which memories of Cromwell and Fairfax still cling, and where he has gradually collected a considerable library.

As a judge it may be permitted to me to say that Lord Coleridge is already making a great reputation. He is very careful, very patient, very considerate, with a high courtesy, which is gradually making its impression, even on the barristers who practise before him, though it was, of course, at first mistaken by them for weakness.

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VANITY FAIR



(Mr. Justice Coleridge.)

“The Silver Voiced.”

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