

**SCINTILLAE JURIS
AND MEDITATIONS
IN THE TEA-ROOM**

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Scintillae juris and Meditations in the tea-room by Mr. Justice Darling

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MR. JUSTICE DARLING

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AUTHOR'S NOTE

THESE LITTLE BOOKS WERE published anonymously and have long been out of print ; they are now, for the first time, published together, as they are in some sort complementary.

Author's
Note

It has been thought well to indicate who they were whose decisions are travestied in the chapter "Of Judges" —for they have all passed away, and their idiosyncrasies are no longer familiar to the frequenters of the Courts.

"Meditations in the Tea Room" were published some years before their author entered the House of Commons.

Law
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SCINTILLAE JURIS ✧ BY THE
HON. MR. JUSTICE DARLING
WITH PREFATORY NOTE BY THE
RIGHT HONBLE. SIR EDWARD
CLARKE, K.C.

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SIXTH EDITION

PREFATORY NOTE

THE PUBLISHERS HAVING Prefatory Note desired a Prefatory Note to this new edition, my friend the author of "Scintillae Juris" and the "Meditations in the Tea Room" has asked me to write a short introduction to the volume in which these two books appear together.

Whether any such introduction is needed, and whether I am the proper person to write it, were questions for his decision. His judgments are very seldom overruled, and in this case I willingly submit. If any words of introduction are to be spoken there is perhaps some fitness in my selection to discharge that pleasant duty. For he and I have for many years been comrades in both professional and political life, and have both refused to allow the claims of politics or law to exclude us from the delights of literature.

The lines in which Sir Charles Darling described Mr. Justice Talfourd may not unfitly be applied to himself :

"Judge, but not merely a Judge—
though learned, not lawyer entirely :
Orator, maker of laws, had he been—
likewise maker of verses."

Prefatory Note These two books represent the outlook upon public affairs and upon the work of our courts of justice of a shrewd and well-stored intellect, endowed with a quality which Talfourd did not possess, the dangerous and delightful gift of humour.

"*Scintillae Juris*" was published a good many years ago, and has for some time been out of print; copies being only obtainable of late at a good deal of trouble and expense. Some of its contents—the five judgments given in its early pages—cannot be enjoyed by the younger lawyers among us as they were by those who were familiar with the judicial utterances so pleasantly satirised. When they first appeared the names now given at the foot of the page were quite unnecessary, and each of the victims recognised, except in his own case, the truth of the caricature. But all the rest of the *scintillae* are as bright as ever, and the pages on examination and cross-examination, and witnesses, and evidence, contain hints as to the conduct of a case which any intelligent young barrister will find very useful.

The "*Meditations in the Tea Room*," although first published some years

before the author entered the House of Commons, are strongly tinged with the cynicism which comes naturally to one who spends years as a private member of the House of Commons, a place where the opportunities for public usefulness seem so large, and where the actual results of hard work are so very small. "Sir," said Mr. Disraeli to a new member who was presented to him, "you will find the House of Commons a very dull place—with its brilliant moments." Those brilliant moments are indeed delightful, and sometimes come unexpectedly to reward the diligence of the patient sitter through the hours of dulness ; but when they have been foreseen the chamber is so crowded that no one but the Speaker and the Sergeant-at-arms has a comfortable seat. No wonder that there are scoffers in the smoking room and cynics in the tea room. The author of these Meditations has here set down, in less than a hundred pages, many wise and weighty suggestions on political topics. I do not say, as is so commonly said of books, that they will repay perusal, for where perusal is itself a pleasure no repayment is needed, but I commend them to all students of the