

**Cairns**, Hugh MacCalmont, Earl (*b.* 1819, *d.* 1885), Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, graduated at Trinity College, Dublin, and was called to the English bar in 1844. Elected member of Parliament for Belfast, he soon became known as a ready and eloquent debater, was Solicitor-General in Lord Derby's administration of 1858, and in 1866 Attorney-General. The following year he was raised to the peerage as Baron

Cairns of Garmoyle, and in Mr. Disraeli's administration (1868) became Lord Chancellor. He opposed the disestablishment of the Irish Church with much ability. Appointed leader of the opposition in the House of Lords, he originated the scheme for the fusion of law and equity, afterwards carried into effect by Lord Selborne; and to him are also due the Conveyancing Bill (1881) and the Settled Estates Bill (1882). He was again Lord Chancellor 1874-80. In 1878 he was created Viscount Garmoyle, and Earl Cairns in the peerage of the United Kingdom. 604.3