

served himself and encouraged in those about him. To this habit a good deal of the vigour of his old age is doubtless due. Speaking of his physical powers he once said to me, "I think I preserve my strength by husbanding it. If I am obliged to sit up late at night, I always rise proportionately late the following morning; and I never do, and never have done, a stroke of work on Sunday."

It was generally at dinner-parties that I met the Prime Minister, and I noticed that he was a very moderate eater and drinker yet without the least affectation of abstemiousness. He has lately entertained at his yacht-table kings, queens, and princesses; but I believe that he is in no wise dazzled by the distinction and homage which his genius and patriotic services have brought him, and that he still keeps a corner in his memory for the obscurest man or woman who has secured his sympathy.

Mr. Gladstone has a fine temper as well as fine feelings; he never forgets his dignity sufficiently to vituperate, nor does his magnificent eloquence ever degenerate into the bitterness of invective.

A more versatile mind perhaps never existed. Apart from statesmanship, his gifts as a scholar would have made him a leader among men. I do not think he is a keen judge of art; at least I have heard him laud productions which had no special merit but such as his partiality for the artist led him to attribute to his work.

Of literature he is a just and generous critic, and despite his labours, he is still an industrious reader. As a man, there is none better living. His honesty of purpose has never been seriously called in question, while his blameless private life and exemplary Christian character have done as much as his brilliant and successful public career to endear him to the great masses of his countrymen.

President Seelye thus describes his character in the *North American Review*: "Mr. Gladstone is trusted in Europe and most of all in England, where he is known best, for his unswerving moral purpose. He is learned in books; he is familiar with history; he has made a careful study of difficult questions of finance; but in none of these ways has he learned his statesmanship. The most prominent quality of his statesmanship is its high moral ground. He would control nations as individuals should be con-