

he said, "that we have a great mission. The work of England has been great in the past, but it will be still greater in the future. This is true, I believe, in its broadest sense of the English-speaking world. I believe it is also true of England herself. I think that the part which England has to play, and the influence of England in the world will be even vaster in the future than it is to-day. England will be greater than she has ever been." Mr. Gladstone always seemed to be too much awed by the responsibilities ever to have a thought for the glories of Empire.

AS A STATESMAN.

Mr. Gladstone as a statesman has done several notable things at home and abroad, to live in history. He has contributed more than any single man with a pen and a voice has done, to create Italy and to destroy the dominion of the Turk in Europe. As Prime Minister or Plenipotentiary, he enlarged Greece, transferred Corfu, and established British influence in Egypt. He familiarized the public with the idea of the European concert, not merely as for debate but for action, and maintained in times of the greatest stress and storm that Russia was not outside the pale of human civilization or of Liberal sympathy. In Imperial politics he constantly condemned the strong creed of the swashbuckler. He annexed New Guinea, North Borneo, and Bechuanaland, but he sedulously condemned every extension of the empire that was not forced upon us by inexorable necessity. He cleared out of Afghanistan and retreated from the Transvaal. He established the great precedent of the Alabama arbitration. He was a home-keeping Scot, whose sympathies have never really strayed far beyond these islands except in

the case of those nations struggling and rightly struggling to be free.

At home his chief exploits have been the reform of the tariff, the establishment of free trade, and the repeal of the paper duty. He was the real author of the extension of the franchise to the workmen of the towns, and the actual author of the enfranchisement of the rural householder. He established secret voting. It was in his administration that purchase in the army was abolished. He did his share in the liberation of labour from the Combination Laws, in the emancipation of the



MISS GLYNNE (MRS. GLADSTONE.)

Jews, and in the repeal of University Tests. He was the first to disestablish and disendow a National Church, and to compel the British public to consider the feasibility of establishing subordinate and statutory parliaments within the British Isles. Over and above all else he, the scholar, the statesman and the Nestor of Parliamentary tradition, was the first to bring the most difficult and delicate questions of foreign policy to the rude but decisive test of the mass meeting, and transferred the motive force of the British State from Parliament to the platform.

HIS PLACE IN HISTORY.

"He alone combined the eloquence of Fox, the experience of