

LIFE AND TIMES OF THE RIGHT HON. W. E. GLADSTONE ON THE 'SCAIFE SYSTEM'

Extracts from Speeches
—OF—
The Right Honourable W. E. Gladstone

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(The Numbers refer to entries in Chart)

(14) "It is said truly, that the Queen has an Empire upon which the sun never sets, but wider far than the Empire of her sceptre was the range of the electric sympathy called forth by the illness of the Prince of Wales. It was not merely an English or British, it was not merely an Imperial, it was a world-wide sentiment that was invoked."

(12) "The votes of my early years in Parliament were in several cases such as I now look back upon with regret. But there are none I regret so much as those relating to Ireland. As respects the civil privileges of Ireland I never, I am thankful to say, took an active or prominent part in opposing their extension."

(12) "Conviction, in spite of early associations and long cherished prepossessions, strong conviction, and an overpowering sense of the public interests, operating for many, many years before full effect was given to it, placed me in the ranks of the Liberal party."

(11) "So far as I have been able to judge the final delinquency which put my case beyond all patience with the Oxford University was that I had made a declaration to the effect that if we were opposed to the extension of the suffrage to our fellow countrymen it became us to show good cause why our fellow countrymen should not be admitted to that privilege. Great was the horror that was produced by that revolutionary declaration."

(10) "In November, 1856, I undertook a mission to the Ionian Isles and made proposals in the name of the Queen to the Ionian Assembly. I was sanguine in the hope, and expectation that it would be practicable thoroughly to set right the character of England by offering to the people of these Islands institutions founded upon those principles of freedom and armed with those guarantees of freedom which are so inexpressibly dear to us. In the session of the Ionian Assembly, a marked homage was paid to the principles of justice, and we went about preaching to others that they ought to have regard to national rights, feelings and traditions, showed by the cession of the Protectorate of the Ionian Isles that we were ready to apply in our own case the rules and maxims which we advised them to apply."

(9) "Almost everything begins for me with my old friend Homer, the friend of my youth, the friend of my middle age, the friend of my old age, from whom I hope never to part so long as I have any faculty or breath left in my body. Of all the books which we handle, English or foreign, there is not one which, within the same compass, contains anything like the vast amount of human knowledge and experience."

(8) "The office of the Chancellor of the Exchequer is never a very popular one. A very large part of his time is, even under the happiest circumstances, spent in saying to those who demand public expenditure, 'No, no, no.'"

(7) "I took leave of Naples with the fixed resolution to strain every nerve for effecting the purpose of producing a salutary effect upon the proceedings on the Neapolitan government and for effecting it with promptitude."

(6) "In the first fourteen years of my political life I was a member of the Conservative party. I was bred under the shadow of the great name of Canning. With Canning I rejoiced in the removal of religious disabilities, with Canning I rejoiced in the opening he made towards the establishment of free commercial exchanges between nations."

(5) "I lost my seat for the borough of Newark on account of the share I took in sustaining Sir Robert Peel in repealing the Corn Laws."

(4) "The abolition of the Corn Laws was one of the greatest branches of a large and complex system of legislation which distinguished a portion of my lifetime, reaching from about the year 1840 to about the year 1865."

(3) "The cause of my resignation was that I had taken upon myself some years before to state to the world facts which I believed to be most conformable to the relations of a Christian state, to the profession of religion and to policy with regard to religion, and as the indications of the Government, as respected the Roman Catholic College at Maynooth, pointed to a measure at variance with the views I had advocated, I doubted whether it would be right that I should remain in office as a Minister of the Crown."

(2) "When the discussion was going on with regard to Canada, I remember that Mr. O'Connell, who often mingled wit and humour with his eloquence in those days, intervened and referred to the well known fact that a French orator and statesman named Papineau had been the promoter and the leader of the agitation in Canada. And what said Mr. O'Connell? He said 'The case is exactly the case of Ireland with the difference that in Canada the agitator has got the 'O' on at the end of his name instead of at the beginning.'"

(1) "I entered Parliament in 1833 as member for the borough of Newark. I went there by the invitation of the Red Club. The Club sent to the Duke of Newcastle to know if he could recommend a candidate to them and in consequence I was appointed to and accepted the invitation."

DIED on the 19th day of May, 1895.
"The Grand Old Man?" Aged 88 Years

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE, 1897. SOUTH AFRICA COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY. He receives SIR W. LAURIER, Premier of Canada at Newarden.
1896. Sudden DEATH at Hawarden Church of Dr BENSON, Archbishop of Canterbury. He addresses public meeting at CHESTER, on ARMENIAN QUESTION, 1895.

1894. HE RESIGNS LEADERSHIP. Lord Rosebery commissioned to form a Ministry.
1893. Irish Home Rule Bill, passes Commons, but rejected by Lords. ARBITRATION

1890. PRIME MINISTER

1891. G's RELIGIOUS DISABILITIES REMOVAL BILL—Rejected by Commons.
1890 O'SHEA vs O'SHEA & PARNELL—Majority of Irish Parliamentary Party, renounce leadership of PARNELL.
1889. Verdict for Parnell. Parnell, the forger, commits suicide.
1887. "QUEEN'S JUBILEE." 1887. The Times publishes letter, alleged to be PARNELL'S re PHOENIX PARK MURDERS.
1888. G. introduces HOME RULE BILL (Defeated).
1885. G's Govt resigns. He declines offer of Earldom. DEATH of GEN. GORDON.

1880. PRIME MINISTER

1880. Occupation of Egypt 1882.
1880. IRISH LAND ACT 1881. He is first termed Grand Old Man.
1880. Death of LORD BEACONSFIELD.
1880. BRADLAUGH DIFFICULTY. Case of Capt. Boycott.
1879. MIDLOTHIAN CAMPAIGN—Devotes himself to "countersinking the business of Bradlaugh."
1877. Peace with honour demonstrations 1878.
1877. He pays a private visit to IRELAND.
1873. RETIRES temporarily from LEADERSHIP of LIBERAL PARTY.

1870. PRIME MINISTER

1873. Gladstone's Government defeated in GENERAL ELECTION of 1874.
1873. Govt. beaten by majority of 3 on Irish University Bill, Feb 12. G. tenders resignation, but on Disraeli declining to form Ministry, retains office.
1872. ALABAMA CLAIMS SETTLED.
1871. Purchase of Commissions in army abolished, by exercise of Royal prerogative.
1870. IRISH TENANT ACT, & ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ACT.
1869. IRISH CHURCH DIS-ESTABLISHED.
1860. Publishes "Juventus Mundi".
1867. Special Constables sworn in.
1867. Disraeli introduces REFORM BILL (Household Suffrage after years residence).
1866. He introduces New Reform Franchise Bill. Government is defeated.
1865. General Election—He is defeated at Oxford, but returned for S. Lancashire.
1864. He advocates extension of Franchise to Working Classes & assumes lead of FREE TRADE MOVEMENT.

1860. CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

1862. Gladstone's utterance that "Jefferson Davis had made an army, a navy, & more than that, a nation" gives offence in U.S.
1861. PAPER DUTY REPEALED, leading to cheap Newspapers. 7th Census—29,192,419. "THE TRENT AFFAIR."
1859. VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT.
1858. He is sent on mission to IONIAN ISLANDS. ET 49. Publishes "Studies on Homer." INDIAN MUTINY WARS

1850. CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

1855. Resigns office under Palmerston.
1853. As CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, he introduces his FIRST Budget.
1851. He visits NAPLES—Writes the "NEAPOLITAN LETTERS" on condition of political prisoners.
1850. PARNAL AGGRESSION. ET 41. Publishes his book "The Royal Supremacy." His daughter dies. ET 5

1840. CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

1842. CHARTIST DEMONSTRATION (LONDON).
1847. Returned at General Election as Member for Oxford Univ. "THE DAN PACIFIC INCIDENT."
1846. REPEAL OF THE CORN LAWS. ET 37. Converted. Principles of FREE TRADE, he resigns as Member for Newark.
1845. Resigns Govt. Presidency, on Question of Govt Grant to R.C. College at Maynooth. ET 36. Looses a finger by bursting of a gun.
1843. Master Repeal Meeting near Dublin.—O'CONNELL, & other Repeal Leaders arrested.

1830. CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

1841. ET 32. Made a PRIVY COUNCILLOR.
1840. PENNY POST.
ET 30. Goes to ROME (He meets & becomes engaged to) MARRIED JULY 29, at HANBEN CHURCH, who later inherits later by his son.
ET 29. Publishes his First Book "The State considered in its relations with the Church."
ET 26. APPOINTED—UNDER SEC: of STATE for COLONIAL AFFAIRS.

1820. CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

1834. OLD PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS BURNT.
1833. SLAVERY ABOLISHED. ET 23-4. G. FIRST SITS IN HOUSE OF COMMONS. JAN 1833. (He is member of Tory Party (opposed to Repeal) for several years before becoming a member of the Liberal Party.)
1832. He LEAVES OXFORD. Presses his father to allow him to go into the Church. VISITS ITALY (as nominee of Duke of Newcastle).
Becomes Sec & finally Pres. of Oxford Union. Starts a debating Society, the Essay Club called the "MAGNET." ET 22. TAKES DOUBLE FIRST CLASS.
In his second term, elected Member of Oxford Union Debating Society, opposing removal of Jewish Disabilities, & immediate abolition of Slavery.

1810. STUDENT OF CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD

JANUARY 1828. MATRICULATED at CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD. "I have loved Oxford with a deep & passionate love." W.E.G.
Visits a silk factory at MACCLESFIELD (From what I saw, there dawned on my mind, the first ray of light of Free Trade & W.E.G.)
Refuses to drink a coarser toast at an election dinner, at the "Christophers":
Features of Home Life—Domestic debating society started by his father.

1800. STUDENT OF CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD

ET 13. HE GOES TO ETON: "The Queen of all Schools"—W.E.G. The prettiest little boy ever sent to Eton? Known as a "3rd" at School.

HIS EDUCATION BEGINS under private tuition at SEAFORTH VICARAGE, NEAR LIVERPOOL.

ET 5. He visits Edinburgh. "I heard the glass of the windows of the Royal Hotel, rattle to the guns of the Castle, as they announced one of the great Victories over Napoleon I & W.E.G."

ET 3. He visits Mrs Hannah Moore, who "presents me with a child book because I was just coming into the world, and she was just going out—W.E.G."

DEC. 29. 1809. BORN at Rodney St., Liverpool, 3rd SON of Anne, daughter of Andrew Robertson of STONHAMMAY and John, eldest son of Thomas Gladstone, Esq. of ARROTH, LEITH.

Compiled by Arthur H. Leahy. From Gladstone the name had become Gladstones finally Gladstone. As far back as 1828 Herbert de Gladstones, figures in the "Magnum Roll" as one of the lords who swore fealty to Edward I. Highwell Street, Dec.

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(25) "My Parliamentary life has been a very long one—the dissolution of 1892 was the fourteenth with which I have been personally concerned—and considered as an active and laborious life, with a considerable portion of it spent in the labours of office, it has perhaps never been exceeded. I have had the honour of serving my country for over half a century, and few have enjoyed so great privileges. It has seen many changes, and I rejoice to think that many of them in that half century have been greatly for the happiness and advancement of my fellow-creatures. I have done much in the public service, and not all of it wise. I could note a catalogue of errors; but at the same time, during the long years of my public life, at all times I have acted for the best according to such light as I possessed."

(24) "I think there is a special relation of friendship between England and America. It is a speciality of friendship founded upon the close relationship of our race, upon a united language, upon sympathy, upon that love of freedom and national and ordered self government which distinguishes alike these two great countries. There is a magnificent destiny reserved for the United States. The destinies of America loom so large that the mere thought of what is contained in them becomes almost overwhelming. They will overshadow by the magnitude of their population, as well as by their territory, every other portion of the Anglo-Saxon race, and not only so, but every other state and nation in the world."

(23) "Some method of governing Ireland other than coercion ought, as I thought, to be sought for and might be found."

(22) "No minister ever had the honour to serve a sovereign more august or more beloved. Through the greater part of my life, I have had an opportunity of appreciating Her Majesty's rules of conduct. For all those years she was not only without reproach but she was a model and a pattern. All the principles of the constitution have been observed by the Queen through the long years of her reign in a manner more perfect than has ever been known in the time of any former Sovereign."

(21) "I am a decided and convinced member of the Church of England. I have been there all my life, and there, I trust, I shall die. But that will not prevent me from bearing an emphatic testimony to this, that the cause of justice, the cause of humanity, of mercy, of truth, of right, for many millions of God's creatures in the east of Europe, found its best, its most consistent, and its almost unanimous supporters in the Nonconformist churches of the land."

(20) "My answer when I am asked 'What took you to Egypt?' is, 'Honour took me to Egypt—plighted faith took me to Egypt.'"

(19) "There were three great changes introduced into the law by the Irish Land Act of 1881. One was that we abolished virtually the limitation which the Land Act (of 1870) imposed upon the right of assignment. The second great change was the provision of a system to check arbitrary increases of rent—not to prevent the increases of rent, but to check them. The third great change was the power of appeal by a court for fixing a judicial rent."

(18) "I was not myself at that time particularly safe when I walked in the streets of London. I have walked with my wife from my own house. I have walked owing my protection to the police."

(17) "I wish to record my firm conviction that in all the judgments ever delivered by Lord Beaconsfield upon myself, he never was actuated by sentiments of personal antipathy. It is a pleasure to me to make that acknowledgement."

(16) "I regard the fine imposed on this country, (£3,200,000) as dust in the balance compared with the moral value of the example set when these two great nations of England and America, which are among the most fiery and the most jealous in the world with regard to anything that touches national honour, went in peace and concord before a judicial tribunal to dispose of these painful differences, rather than resort to the arbitrament of the sword. The object in view was twofold; it was the assertion of a great principle most valuable to mankind, and to be productive, I hope, in the future of immeasurable good; and it had in view an aim which has been accomplished, viz: the aim of removing a formidable obstacle to affection and goodwill between four-and-thirty millions of Anglo-Saxons who inhabit these islands, and five-and-forty millions who inhabit the United States of America."

(15) "The value of the shares purchased by H. M's Government was in 1881 about £4,750,000 above the price given for them in 1875. As I think the purchase had to do with the prudent engagements subsequently contracted in Egypt and the vast cost they entailed, I think it entitled, or helped to entail, great pecuniary loss to the country."

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