

him called "a sloven," but it struck me that he was even scrupulously neat, from the arrangement of his already thinned locks to that of the small bouquet in his button-hole. The most noticeable point about Mr. Gladstone's *physique* is his immense head, the extreme development of the superciliary ridge giving his dark eyes doubly the appearance of being deeply set. He affected no mysterious reserve in speaking of the political questions of the day; he was frank and evidently sincere. He spoke with affectionate reverence of the present royal family, evidently appreciating not only their public position, but their private virtues. His manner, nevertheless, had a republican simplicity, and when a chord was touched in which the inalienable rights of man vibrated, his eye kindled and flashed, while his tongue poured forth an eloquent appeal, or protest, as it might be, and he showed himself a true lover of mankind.

In society Mr. Gladstone is very popular, in a great measure because he assumes no air of superiority, is entirely free from arrogance, and never monopolizes the conversation. He listens patiently and politely even to a bore, never showing weariness. I was present on one occasion at a table at which the famous but somewhat eccentric Professor Blackie sat next but one to Mr. Gladstone. The professor, who is very energetic and vociferous, brandished his arms while he was speaking, and that so wildly that a lady who was sitting between the two distinguished men had more than once to draw suddenly back to avoid his clinched hand striking her face! He interrupted Mr. Gladstone's remarks several times, the interruption being borne with perfect equanimity and met by a smile, not of superiority, but of indulgence.

At that time Mr. Gladstone was the hardest worked man in England; but from his extraordinary habits of order and method he found time for everything; he never let a note or letter remain more than a day or two unanswered, even those which came from obscure individuals, and in many cases the formal reply of his secretary was followed up almost immediately by an autograph letter, always couched in courteous terms, and, where he was interested, in the most cordial expressions.\*

Mr. Gladstone told me that he approved of everyone doing a portion of manual labour—a practice which he has always ob-

\* One of the present editor's most cherished possessions is one of Mr. Gladstone's books, presented by its distinguished author, with a complimentary autograph inscription.—E.D.