

ways told the truth exactly as he saw it; but he saw it so clearly and with such mathematical accuracy that to the ordinary man who never sees anything as it is, but only as it appears, the difference between what Mr. Gladstone saw and what Mr. Gladstone said he saw, is often quite inexplicable.

HIS GIFTS OF EXPOSITION.

Like all great orators Mr. Gladstone's personality was a kind of hypnotism to which an audience temporarily succumbed. In the House of Commons, except when

enabled him to make whatever cause he undertook to defend appear for the time the only possible cause that a decent man could espouse.

As an orator Mr. Gladstone had every grace but one. He never cultivated the virtue of brevity. But in him this was no defect, for so sweet and silvern was his speech that his hearers regretted when the stream ceased to flow. The mere physical endurance entailed by some of his great speeches is in itself wonderful. Mr. Gladstone has repeatedly

spoken three hours and even five, at the close of a long and exciting debate, which came on the heels of a day full of arduous and exhausting ministerial work.

Mr. Gladstone was all his life long so sedulous an opponent of swashbucklerism in all its moods and tenses that some of us have felt that he underestimated the mission of Britain in the affairs of the world. Whether



HAWARDEN CHURCH.

concluding a great debate, that peculiar magnetic power was less plainly manifest than when he was swaying at will the fierce democracy. But for argumentative cogency and sledge-hammer weight, some of his great Parliamentary performances were unrivalled.

As an expositor of an intricate and involved subject Mr. Gladstone was a veritable genius. In his Budget speeches he made financial figures as fascinating as a fairy tale, and he could make even a speech on the Irish Land question interesting. As a sophist no one could beat him. The marvellous subtlety of his intellect

or not Lord Salisbury believes in England as the old Elizabethans believed in England, there are very few even of the most devoted disciples of Mr. Gladstone who feel that he shared the life and inspiration that come from a contemplation of the great role which we have played, and are playing, in the history of the world. He was usually so bent upon mortifying the Old Adam of national pride, that he had hardly time to devote a sentence to the expression of the awe and gratitude with which he recognized the immense vocation of Britain in the outer world. "But I fully recognize,"