

ince of one from whose views he so widely differed. He accordingly resigned, and, after his place in the House of Commons was vacant for two years, he was returned as representative of the University of Oxford.

In 1852 the Derby Ministry was formed, with the late Mr. Disraeli as Chancellor of the Exchequer, and it was on the occasion of his production of the Budget that he and Mr. Gladstone gave the first of many great gladiatorial exhibitions to the House. The Budget was mercilessly handled by Mr. Gladstone, and it was mainly in consequence of his powerful attack upon it that the Derby Cabinet was overthrown. On the formation of the Coalition Government under Lord Aberdeen he made, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, the first of his famous Budget speeches which fully justified the high anticipations of his friends by his matchless oratory and the irresistible force of his logic. This was in 1853. We next find him holding the same office under Lord Palmerston, when his splendid capacities for its duties again and again asserted themselves. In 1860, associated with Cobden, he shared in the negotiations for a fresh treaty of commerce, in which Napoleon III. also took a deep interest. His justification of that treaty will be remembered by many of our readers as one of his happiest efforts. The abolition of the paper duty and the reduction of the income tax, and the duty on tea were among the more important measures that soon followed.

Lord Palmerston dying in 1865, Mr. Gladstone naturally succeeded him as the Leader of the Liberal party and Premier of the Government.

As the subsequent career of Gladstone is of so recent date that it cannot fail to be fresh in the minds of our readers, we will close with a few remarks. Besides, the battle field is not soon cleared of the smoke of action, and few, until it is so, can survey it justly. However, we can truthfully say that he is emphatically "a full man," and he is as various in talent as he is full. By no means inconsiderable as a poet, he is first among living financiers, and among the first of living statesmen.

He is at once a copious and graceful writer, and an orator of the first rank. With a mind saturated with the hero-worshipping poetry of Ancient Greece, he is the leading Liberal statesman of his time.

We regret that a portion of the Press and some gentlemen whose education and general information should lead us to expect something better from them, display only an absolute and ignorant incapacity to understand the position of the British Ministry regarding the Anglo-Russian entanglement. The conduct of the Gladstone Ministry throughout this affair has been such as to reflect honor upon the nation calm, resolute and vigorous—striving to prevent bloodshed, to preserve the peace, and yet actively preparing for war. Not to understand a question is bad enough, but to insist upon writing and talking about that which one does not understand is the concentrated essence of criminal audacity. Gladstone is the custodian of his own principles as well as of the nation's honor and interests. He has carefully preserved each, and no intelligent observer ever doubts that he will continue to do so, the opinions of addled critics, like in their besotted ignorance and limitless conceit, to be one trash notwithstanding.

Apart from anything connected with Soudanese, Russians or Egyptians, the Gladstone parliament will ever occupy a conspicuous place in history; its legislation for Ireland as for England, cannot be acknowledged, has been stupendous. If for nothing but the marvellous amount of work he has performed, Mr. Gladstone would be a remarkable man. But it is not probable that he will even now retire from active parliamentary life. A restless energy is one of his chief characteristics, and like Ulysses, he may sail the ship of state as the leader of his party even to the close of life. That the close will be long in coming is a hope and a wish in which men of all shades of politics will heartily join. Indeed he is yet surprisingly strong and vigorous. It was only a few days since that in replying

to a motion for a vote of censure he defended himself and vindicated his policy energetically. The orator's freshness and fire, on that occasion, instinctively reminded the older members of the times when his Budget speeches entranced them as no other Budget speeches have ever since been able to do. And now although in his seventy-sixth year, Mr. Gladstone is still healthy and active, still leads the Liberal party, still stands at the helm—a grand old man, one of whom the nation has a right to be proud. Loyal, honest, untiring in energy, rich in scholarship, great in those qualities which make the leader of a people, worthy of a people's honor and regard, he has earned for himself an exalted and enduring fame, which the verdict of future generations can only serve to confirm.

His life was so gentle, and the elements
So mixed in him that nature might stand up
And say to all the world: *This was a man.*

—*St. Louis.*

