

of England's representatives. He was the elder brother of Lord Lytton. Bulwer's popularity and astuteness enabled him to secure the well-known Clayton-Bulwer Convention which lasted intact for fifty years, a long life for an Anglo-American agreement. It was abrogated by mutual consent in 1901. Bulwer's qualities exactly fitted him for the post. "The sweetness of his disposition," says one writer, "and his high-bred manners rendered him a universal favourite. Habitually sauntering through society with an air of languor, he veiled the keenest observation under an aspect of indifference. Whenever in his more delicate negotiations he was the most cautious, he seemed the most negligent." He subsequently attributed his success in making so durable an arrangement to the care he took, in framing the articles of the treaty, to employ terms with the exact meaning given to them in American treaties. The rule is a good one for Bulwer's successors. John Crampton, who enjoys the distinction of being the second of the three British Ministers dismissed by the Washington Government, was appointed in 1852. He never made himself acceptable to the Americans, and during the Crimean War he was charged with enlisting men to serve in the war. This he denied, but the tenor of his despatches when laid before Parliament gave offence to President Pierce and when Downing Street refused to recall him, he was summarily dismissed. Even Lord Palmerston thought this affront hardly warranted war, and the Government contented itself with defending Crampton's conduct and expressing regret at the unfriendly attitude of the President. After some delay, Lord Napier was chosen Minister, but his stay in Washington was short and uneventful and he gave way in 1859 to the justly praised Lord Lyons.

The approaching civil war was now casting its baleful shadow over the Union. Lord Lyons showed perfect comprehension of the situation. He knew that a strong and moderate-

minded American element was well disposed toward England. But this element did not control the Government or rule the country. "I should hardly say," he wrote to the Foreign Secretary, "that the bulk of the American people are hostile to the old country, but I think they would rather enjoy seeing us in difficulties." To deal with this human sentiment, his two watchwords were—caution and firmness. He soon had need of both. When Lincoln selected Seward as his Secretary of State, the British Minister knew he had to deal with a man who would invoke foreign quarrels to stave off war at home. The story of how Lyons showed such forbearance and sympathy in presenting England's demand for the liberation of Mason and Slidell, that the reply and apology were given within the seven days allowed, is too well-known to require re-telling. Two facts, often mis-stated, should be borne in mind about the "Trent" affair. It was Lord John Russell's suggestion that Lyons should first go to Seward without the despatch and break the unpleasant news in a tactful interview. The second point of importance is that the despatch was couched in grave and dignified terms so that a great and distracted nation could retreat without humiliation. Seward who had gone about threatening to fight the South with one hand and the Powers of Europe with the other had to climb down. But he paid a handsome tribute to the British Minister for the courtesy and consideration shown in handling the business.

Lord Lyons inspired liking and confidence—a useful quality in a diplomatist. His sterling truthfulness and simplicity were safeguards against intrigue and duplicity, and in social life, despite his indifference to the other sex, he was a favourite. On the score of his bachelorhood he was beset by gentle chaff and a determined attempt to get him married. "The American women," he wrote to a friend, "are undoubtedly very pretty, but my heart is too old [forty-three]