

GREAT OCCASIONS

In the Canadian Parliament, May 28, 1917.

Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier:

But Mr. Balfour, I am sure, would be the first to recognize that the warmth of the receptions which he has received, especially in this country, is not due alone to his great name and personality, but is associated with an even greater name, the name of England, the champion of liberty, the mother of living nations. England, great at all times, was never greater than at this moment; never was greater, I repeat, and because of what? Because to-day England is the home of civilization and the terror of the enemies of civilization. In Germany to-day the cry is "Gott strafe England!" But everywhere else, on the seven seas, throughout the five continents, in the mansions of the great and in the cottages of the lowly, there rises every day the fervent and reverent cry, "God bless England!"

I have nothing to add to the message which you, sir, will take back to England, and which has been expressed so eloquently by Mr. Speaker, but if I had to add one word, and one word only, it would be that you will report to the people of England, to the people of Europe, to the people of the whole world, that we Canadians stand to-day prouder of the British allegiance than we were three years ago.

Rt. Hon. Arthur Balfour:

After all, when German militarism laid it down, as it has always laid it down, that a democracy is not capable either of a far-sighted policy or of vigorous co-ordinated effort, it made a great blunder, but it made a blunder for which there is some excuse. They have recognized how hard the task has always been found, not now particularly, but always, the task of managing a great community of free men, and directing and concentrating all their efforts and all their sacrifices at any given moment upon one great object. That can be done, no doubt, simply and effectively by a military autocracy; it can be done more easily; it can in appearance, though I think only in appearance, be done more effectively. But when democracy sets itself to work, when it really takes the business in hand, I hold the faith most firmly that it will beat all the autocracies in the world. (Applause.) But it will not beat them easily; it will not beat them without effort; it will not beat them unless it is prepared to forego, temporarily, it may be, those divisions which in a sense are the very life blood of a free, vigorous and rapidly-developing community. That is the paradox and the difficulty which lies at the root of democracy.

NO sane citizen of Canada could get anything less than a patriotizing thrill from the presence in this country, a few days ago, of Rt. Hon. Arthur Balfour. The camera catches him here in the act of speaking—at the doors of the Parliament Building, in Toronto. That the camera did not focus him upon a still more historic occasion, when he addressed both Houses of Parliament in Ottawa, is a matter for passing regret. But Mr. Balfour never in his life rose before a crowd, no matter where, that he did not prove himself a master of felicity and diplomatic delicacy, an intellectual figure and a truly great citizen of the greatest monarchical democracy in the world.

Imagine that the photograph belongs elsewhere and that the crowd before the great British statesman are the members of Commons and Senate in Ottawa, and you have the focus of the biggest occasion in the visit of the three great visitors to Canada, Joffre, Viviani, and Balfour. The Parliament of Canada should be a better and a bigger Parliament since hearing the memorable address to both Houses, flanked by the eloquent speeches of Premier and Opposition leader.



CONFERRING degrees of honour upon distinguished men has long been a prerogative of Canadian universities. Sometimes it is hard to tell which gets the greater honour. When Rt. Hon. Arthur Balfour took part in the special Convocation at the University of Toronto, a few days ago, there was no doubt in the mind of President Falconer, at his right, or Chancellor Sir William Meredith, in front, that the University was never more highly distinguished than when it made Rt. Hon. Arthur Balfour another LL.D. As ex-Lord Rector of Glasgow University, a cultivated scholar, a wise, if not profound, thinker, an author of literary distinction, Mr. Balfour had nothing to fear in the special solemnity of the function at Queen's Park. He was the most debonair and unaffected of all the long line of dignitaries in the procession. And he is quite cosmopolitan enough not to feel hurt that the average man could not distinguish the Doctor of Laws degree, conferred upon him from that given *honoris causa*, to any less eminent citizen of Canada.

