

follow nor frame ideals; his choice is to be what his age will have him, what it requires in order to be moved by him or else not to be at all." But this must be balanced by the equally strong opinion of others that he was too attached to lofty ideals, and fought too far in front of his army. Bright called him a sunflower ever turning to the sun; but he was more, for he wooed all else sunward.

The question of questions to be asked concerning a man like Gladstone is not: Did he succeed in being popular? Did he reach the highest seat of power? Was he always of the opinion of his ancestors or of himself on some yesterday? It is this rather, granted that he had much to renounce and to forget and that therefore, he must have had to move out of one set of opinions and methods and to enter into another, did he grow, with that healthfulness of soul and that soundness of conscience, which, always, in the process of his development, kept him true to his own personality and to the integrity of the laws of human thought by which other equally true minds necessarily came into alliance with him? It is competent, in short, to ask how far did his transforming intelligence normally transform the nation he most influenced, toward permanent grandeur and good fame? The answers to these questions, it is believed, will be increasingly favorable to the name and to the honor of Gladstone. From first to last, by force of a lively intelligence, predestined to love and to seek increasing light and hope, he was in process of evolution. So also, but less swiftly, was England.

His inconsistencies are proof of the truth of Emerson's words: "Consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds." Times there were when any partial view could only say, as he was contemplated:

"Things are in process still; the segment ends are these
Within the plane upturned to-day. The perfect circles round but slow."

The verdict of all times, however, will be returned as the world, ever advancing toward the goal he dreamed of, perceives the whole range and the entire import of the influences he helped to create, to guard and to guide, and then with the names of Alfred and Hampden, William the Silent and Lincoln, will be found written the resplendent name of William Ewart Gladstone.