

chief. It threw Gladstone into the arms of Parnell. Very different would now be the situation, and very different Lord Salisbury's own position, if he had said in answer to such tempters that though the opponent of Mr. Gladstone and desirous of ousting him from power he was before all things a British nobleman, and that he would never embarrass the Queen's Government while it was defending the integrity of the nation against foreign enemies and domestic treason. Had the grace been given him to take that course he would now be in real power. But Party is not the school of patriotism or of honour.

—What dirge is loud and pathetic enough for the fall of Bismarck? It is an ominous comment on personal government that a youth fresh in power and intoxicated with it, as unsteady as he is ambitious, lurching from Chauvinism to mock Socialism, should be able at his imperial will and pleasure to cashier the creator and preserver of German unity, the man whose mighty genius has wrought what few men have ever wrought for a nation. We almost look in vain among the giants of history for one who has achieved such things and borne such a weight of responsibility. Bismarck's faults were but the shadows of his great qualities, while the union in him of Militarism with Liberalism was as rare as it was indispensable to the work that was to be done. He was the man for whom Destiny waited, as she often, when all else is ready, has to wait for the man. The other day his work and that of Von Moltke were in danger from the intrigues of the Empress; now he is cast from power by the vanity of her son. Were the crisis of Germany's fate over, the Man of Iron might be spared, perhaps even his retirement might be seasonable as opening the way for an era not of iron; but with France and Russia in their present attitude the crisis of Germany's fate is not over, nor is the crisis in Europe's fate, which is bound up with the fate of Germany. It will now be seen whether