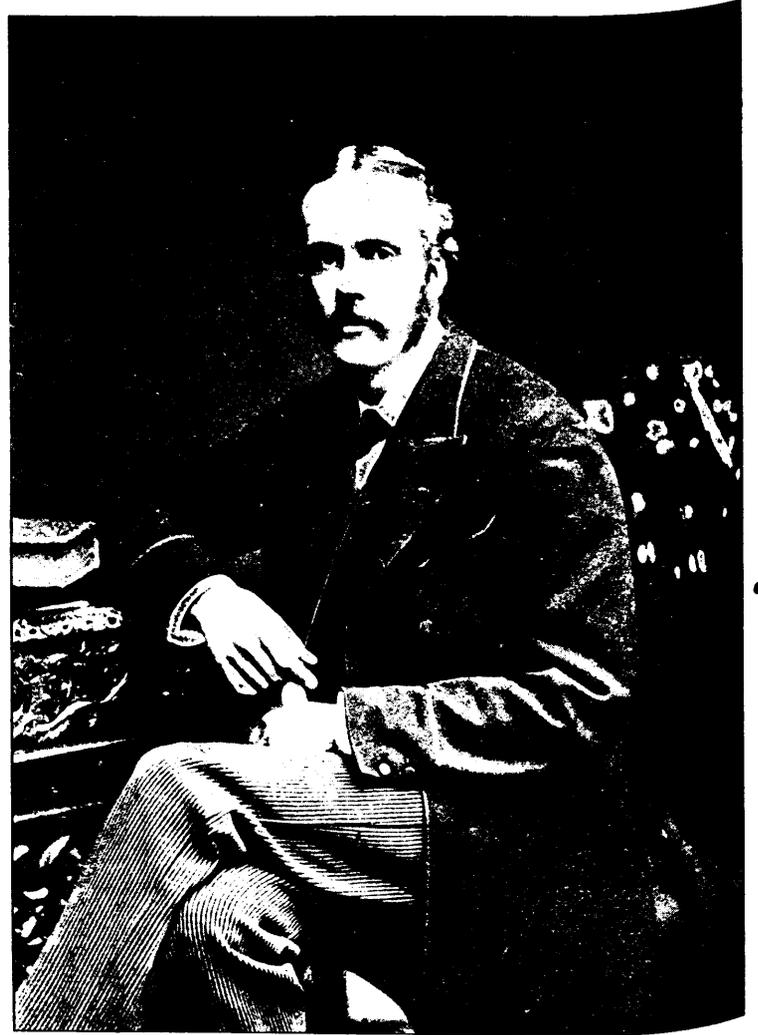




**THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY.**  
PRIME MINISTER OF GREAT BRITAIN.



**THE RIGHT HON. A. J. BALFOUR.**  
LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS.

### Lord Salisbury.

The manner in which England's Premier has united and held together the sometime conflicting forces which have enabled him to retain the leadership of the Government since 1886, prove him to be possessed of the arts of a skilful politician; while the respect he has won for himself at home and for his country abroad, by his general policy, prove that he is no less lacking in the gifts of statesmanship. He is the third Marquis of Salisbury, and was born in the year 1830. His education was received at Eton and Christ Church College, Oxford. As Lord Robert Cecil he entered parliament in 1853, for the family borough of Stamford. In 1866 he was appointed Secretary of State for India in Lord Derby's ministry. He was then Lord Cranbourne, a title he assumed on the death of his brother. Being opposed to the extension of the franchise as proposed, he became separated from his colleagues, but on his entry to the House of Lords as Lord Salisbury on his father's death, in 1867, he returned to his old associations. He at once took rank in the Lords as one of the ablest debaters, and was recognized as an authority on Indian and foreign affairs. He was Secretary for India under Disraeli, from 1874 to 1878. In 1876 he was sent to Constantinople to take part in the conference on Russo-Turkish affairs, and later he went with Beaconsfield to the Berlin Congress, as one of England's plenipotentiaries. From 1878 to 1880 he was Foreign Secretary, and after Beaconsfield's death in 1880 became the recognized leader of the Conservative party. When the Gladstone ministry resigned in 1885, Lord Salisbury was called upon to form a new ministry, and did so, but it was defeated on the Allotments question immediately after the November elections. The Liberals came in, but on the 8th of the following June the Home Rule Bill buried them under a majority of thirty, and the general elections that followed returned the Conservatives to power, and Salisbury to the premiership. Her Majesty the Queen paid Lord Salisbury the honour of being his guest at Hatfield House for a short time during her jubilee year. His Lordship was an occa-

sional contributor to the *Quarterly Review* in his younger days, and in 1864 was elected Chancellor of the University of Oxford. He is greatly devoted to scientific pursuits, especially experimental physics, and spends much time in his laboratory at Hatfield. He has lately interested himself in the application of electricity to practical purposes on his estates. His labours and policy as the First Minister of the Crown is a matter of every day record and need not be referred to here.

### Mr. Balfour.

The selection of Mr. Balfour to succeed the late Hon. W. H. Smith in the Conservative leadership of the English Commons is another great step in a parliamentary career that has attracted attention not in England alone, but throughout the world. As Chief Secretary for Ireland, he became the target of a criticism of the most vigorous and irritating character; but, endowed with an iron will and an apparently utter indifference to all attacks from his opponents, he pursued his line of policy with persistence to the end. However much they may denounce his policy, those who fought his measures so bitterly have at least learned to respect the man. The Right Hon. Arthur James Balfour, M.P., P.C., F.R.S., was born in 1848, and educated at Eton and Trinity Colleges, Cambridge. He entered parliament in 1874, and sat as member for Hertford until 1885, when he was elected for East Manchester, which he still represents in the House. His mother is a sister of Lord Salisbury, and the young man acted as his uncle's private secretary during the critical period of 1878-80, when the Berlin Treaty was negotiated. On entering parliament he acted for a time with the "Fourth Party." In 1885 he was appointed President of the Local Government Board in Lord Salisbury's first administration, and the next year, after the elections had returned the party to power, he acted for a time as Secretary for Scotland. Shortly afterwards he became Chief Secretary for Ireland. He introduced in 1886 the celebrated "Crimes Act," and when it became law

resolutely devoted himself to its enforcement. His position was not a bed of roses at this time, but he proved equal to the task to which he had set himself, and at the same time developed a debating talent that gave him rank among the leaders of the House. One of the most striking incidents connected with his Irish policy was his personal visit last November to some of the famine stricken districts in Ireland and the adoption of measures for the relief of the people. Such an act as this on the part of "Bloody Balfour" denoted more than mere courage or bravado, and he was heartily received by the Irish people. Mr. Balfour is more than a politician. He is a gifted author, is Lord Rector of the University of St. Andrews, and an honorary LL.D. of Edinburgh and Cambridge. He has written "A Defence of Philosophic Doubt," which attracted wide attention. On musical subjects he has also written valuable articles. Lastly, it may be noted that he takes great interest in golf, and has written ably on that subject also. Mr. Balfour is still a comparatively young man, and seems destined yet to play a distinguished part in the drama of British and European politics.

### The Bric-a-Brac Hunter.

Bric-a-brac hunting is a chase ever full of excitement, of exercise, of keen emotions—such as hope, anticipation and surprise; it is not staled by age, or sated by long indulgence. To the very last moment of his life an ardent collector may taste these joys, even if he realises that his heir will bring the priceless collection to the hammer as soon as the breath is out of his body. For, strangely enough, the son rarely shares his father's hobby, or appreciates the things it has been the pleasure of a lifetime to collect. Like the miser who saves up his money and never reckons what that money would bring. Gold alone affords him infinite satisfaction, and the hobby-hunter thinks less of the use of his collection than of the pleasure it gives him to collect.