

## Mr. Winston Churchill, M. P.

TODAY, says a contemporary writer, Winston Churchill is the centre of the British political arena. He is the most conspicuous and in many respects the ablest of British rising statesmen. He has gone from the Unionist to the Liberal benches in the House of Commons, and it is safe to predict that in the near future he will be Liberal leader in the House. Speaking of his career, and particularly of his military adventures, Lord Dufferin once remarked, "On every occasion he has shown that chivalrous courage which becomes a high-minded gentleman, and what is just as important, that capacity, that skill and that resource that bear testimony to his intellectual ability."

Mr. Winston Churchill is audacity incarnate. He does dare and never ceases to dare. In this he is the true son of his father. Both the Churchills entered Parliament at the same age. To be an M. P. at twenty five and a prospective party leader at thirty is a lot which has fallen to them, and to them only in our generation.

Winston Churchill's grandfather was the seventh duke of Marlborough, at one time lord lieutenant of Ireland in a Tory administration. The present Churchill was born in 1874. Educated at Eton and Cambridge, Winston finished at Sandhurst, with honors, in 1894. The next year he was appointed lieutenant in the Fourth Hussars. Soon, however, he obtained leave to visit Cuba, which was then in the throes of her ten years war with Spain. His father had been correspondent for the Daily Graphic in South Africa; the son was special correspondent for the same journal in Cuba. He saw service under Martinez

Campos, and was decorated for his bravery. No sooner had he reached home than his regiment was ordered to India. All through the frontier was in Malakand he fought with the Thirty-first Punjab Infantry and wrote for the Daily Telegraph. For his valor he was again decorated. When he returned to London he immediately joined the force of General Kitchener for the reconquest of Khartoum, all the time acting as correspondent for the Morning Post. His stay with Kitchener was one of adventure, and he was in the march from Atbara to Khartoum, and in the battle of Omdurman, which he described as an eye-witness. In his book, "The River War," he told the story of the conquest of the Sudan, and in his despatches to the Morning Post he criticized the work of his commander-in-chief so daringly and so truly that his political reputation was made. He however, soon concluded that he could be more useful out of the service.

It was not until the Boer war, however, that Winston Churchill rose to the first rank of war correspondents. He was the luckiest and smartest, and certainly the most picturesque personality of the newspaper writers during that conflict. He was taken prisoner in the early part of the war, escaped, and told all about it in his news letters home. His correspondence marked him as a man of distinction—a man who was not only a keen observer and a bright writer but who had the political instinct in his blood. At first he was certain that the Boers, considering their courage and the strength of their religious conviction, would surely win, and it was