

rationalistic temper and agnostic philosophy, make him the most interesting character study, as his career makes him the most interesting historical study, of our

times. What he has done constitutes him a model for the study of statesmen; what he was, a model for the study of all men.

GLADSTONE'S REVENGE.

Our own Canadian J. W. Bengough pays this generous tribute to Gladstone's greatness of soul :

In the course of Gladstone's great speech on the second reading of the Home Rule bill he went out of his way to pay a graceful compliment to the son of Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, who had delivered his maiden speech in this debate. "The speech was one," said Gladstone, "that must have been dear and refreshing to a father's heart." The effect of these generous words on Chamberlain, who had of late lost no opportunity to affront and offend his former leader, was very marked. "He covered his face with his hands," says the account, "and remained motionless for fully five minutes, while those near him said there were palpable tears in his eyes."

The greatest moment in a great career !
A crowded chamber, anxious and intent,
The focus of an anxious, listening world,
Awaited Gladstone's speech.
The Old Man rose,
But seemed no longer old ;
Upon that mountain top of a good cause
He stood transfigured : like a cloak
His years dropped from his shoulders,
And his form, erect, alert, in glorious second
youth,
Astounded all who looked ; and youthful
power
Shone in his eyes and sounded in his voice
As deep and rich it bore his rapid words
From his full soul ; his matchless plea
For Justice, Union, Peace.

Not many hearts were proof against that
plea ;

But there was one, reflected in a face
Of cynic aspect, surly, grim and hard,
That no word touched—the heart of Cham-
berlain.

This man, once Gladstone's friend and fol-
lower,

Had now become the champion of his foes,
Outstripping every natural enemy
In fierce, malignant hate.

And now, indifferent to the orator,
He sat conversing with his stripling son,
Whose maiden speech as member of the House
Had just been made. And as the grand old
man

Poured forth his heart, no word seemed like
to pierce

That grim indifference.

Then suddenly he raised his head and glared
Upon the speaker, from whose lips there fell
The young man's name. What would this
critic say ?

What scorching phrase was coming ? What
keen thrust

Would this past master of invective deal
To wound the father's feelings through 'he
son ?

All's fair in war and politics, and he
Who never spared the old grey head his
scorn

Now braced himself to bear retaliation.

Hark ! In an earnest, deep-toned voice,
With gracious bow, the speaker simply said
"The young man's speech was one that must
have been

Dear and refreshing to a father's heart."

The listener was crushed !

He stared an instant in confused amaze,
Then flushed, and bowed, and covered up
his face

To hide remorseful tears !

All's fair in war and politics : but ah !
The bitterest taunt, the keenest stroke of
wit,

Could not have broken this opponent's heart
As did that Christlike blow !

THY BURDEN.

To every one on earth
God gives a burden to be carried down
The road that lies between the cross and
crown.

No lot is wholly free :
He giveth one to thee.

Thy burden is God's gift,
And it will make the bearer calm and
strong.

Yet, lest it press too heavily and long.

He says, "Cast it on Me,
And it shall easy be."

—M. Farningham.