

## L. R. MASSON

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The first thing that strikes one in studying the grand political organization of parties in England, is the ever important role played by the nobility. Whichever side is in power, is sure to count in its ranks dukes, counts and earls. Even to-day, despite the resistless march of democratic ideas, we behold Gladstone surrounded by Lords Kimberly, Roseberry, Ripon, Houghton and many others. The English aristocracy look upon it as a matter of honour to take an active part in the government of their country and, in obedience to family traditions, regard it as a duty to imbue their children with the same principle. Such a spirit is admirable and might be followed by other nations, less fortunately placed, with immense advantage. It is impossible to overestimate the good results that accrue to a nation whose affairs are administered by its most distinguished citizens—by the descendants of noble houses, whose high personality and hereditary influence dignify political life and consolidate the good government of a country. To these exceptional causes does Great Britain owe her prestige and power. The life of a politician is beset by countless difficulties. He may be shipwrecked at any moment in health and fortune. I here speak of public men in the ordinary walks of life. Vastly different from these are such men as are our Salisburys and Hartingtons, whose exalted station and wealth place them beyond the reach of the petty vexations and miseries known to humbler and less fortunate individuals. Happily, want of fortune with us does not prevent a man from embarking in affairs of state. Yet, the possession of this world's goods creates confidence and a spirit of independence, and places one's acts above suspicion, more especially, when we find affluent means combined with high culture and rare intelligence, as in the case of the subject of this sketch. The Hon. Louis Rodrigue Masson was at one time Minister of the Crown,