

in law and in political life. Among the undergraduates at other colleges in Oxford were Henry Edward Manning, the late Cardinal-Archbishop of Westminster; Sidney Herbert, afterwards one of Gladstone's closest friends and colleagues in Parliamentary life; Robert Lowe, afterwards Lord Sherbrooke; and Sir George Cornwall Lewis, a man of wonderful gifts and acquirements, curiously forgotten by the Englishmen of to-day—a man who, but for his unhappy defects of voice and articulation, might have been one of the greatest speakers in the House of Commons. There was some doubt in Gladstone's family as to whether he ought to be sent to Oxford or to Cambridge. Now, it would seem to most of us that there was an absolute necessity, for the sake of historical fitness, that he should have been sent, as he was sent, to Oxford. The whole atmosphere of the place, steeped in its peculiar traditions and its mediævalism, seemed exactly suited to the peculiar temperament and genius of the youthful Gladstone. Members of the two universities are constantly arguing as to which of the rivals can show the more splendid bead-roll of great students. Into this controversy I have no inclination to enter. Each can produce a magnificent record; but I should think an unbiassed observer might be inclined one way or the other, according as his taste or temperament led him to the scientific, or to what I may call the literary and historical, field of study.