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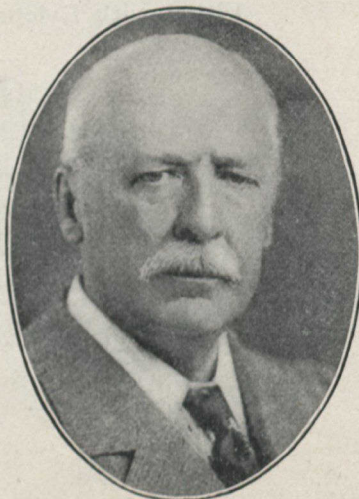
public seems to be in accord with the gentleman with a grievance and the Marquis will have general support, for one touch of sportsmanship makes the whole world kin.

* *

It is generally acknowledged that Mr. Chamberlain's silence at this juncture means the utter breakdown of the man who grasped more fully than any other statesman of his day the meaning of the colonies. One's fancy turns from the pageantry of Guildhall to the quiet of the southern retreat where the man who both dreamed and worked is nearing the Great Perhaps. Whatever may be the future of his tariff scheme, the service Joseph Chamberlain rendered colonial expansion remains as the truest imperialism. Strange compound of the practical reformer and the political pioneer, he possessed a native force that made him a dominating figure. Lord Elgin and Mr. Winston Churchill are doing their diplomatic best. But a Colonial Conference without the keen-faced member from Birmingham is to many the play without the prince. It is a matter of dinners, not destiny. "Once in our time, there was a man."

* *

Lord Cromer's resignation removes what is justly called "a great Caesarean figure" from the government of the Empire—for Egypt is only figuratively speaking outside the African dominions of King Edward. The plea of ill health which Lord Cromer urged is regarded as entirely candid. The Department with which he was associated was the Foreign Office and Sir Edward Grey is too appreciative of the services of an ideal pro-Consul to desire anything but



The Earl of Cromer.

his continuance in office. Indeed, the Foreign Secretary displayed unusual emotion when he declared: "His retirement from Egypt is the greatest personal loss which the public service of this country could suffer." Since 1883, Evelyn Baring, Earl of Cromer, has been British Agent and Consul-General in Egypt, and the story of his administration is a record that is "writ large" in the development of a country and the uplift of a people. John Bull, who is never blind to financial proof, contemplates with respect and admiration the sheet which shows that Egyptian securities were contemptuously regarded in 1883, that in 1887 the Budget balanced and that in 1889 there was a surplus of more than two hundred thousand pounds. "A man of Empire, he has succeeded in spite of European opposition and Mahomedan intrigue, in making the wilderness blossom as the rose and has accomplished it by sheer force of character." Since 1876 when, as Major Evelyn Baring, he was appointed by the Khedive, British Commissioner of the Egyptian Public Debt he has seen a stirring drama played, with the pyramids for background. Tel-el-Kebir and Omdurman have been written red in British annals. Assuan and Assiut have shown the triumphs of modern engineering skill. Egypt, the land of ancient miracles, has seen the making of a new nation since '76 and though more than forty centuries are looking down from the pyramids they have probably regarded no manlier figure than that which now turns from the scene of a monumental life-work.

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