

Lord Milner—A Celebrated Canadian Visitor

LORD ROSEBERRY, that happy phrase-maker-in-chief to the empire, summed up Lord Milner when he wrote that "he has the union of intellect with fascination, which makes men mount high." Already the prophesy has been strikingly verified, and the future, no doubt, holds its complete fulfillment, says the Montreal Star.

Lord Milner knows a great deal about the British empire but he has not before been in Canada, his experience as an administrator having been confined chiefly to South Africa. Before leaving for Canada a few days ago Lord Milner said:—"My object in visiting Canada is to go over as much as possible of the country whereof I have heard so much, but have never yet seen. I have friends there whom I have not seen for years."

It is confidently believed that there is in store for this British visitor a brilliant political career and it will undoubtedly be an advantage to the Dominion to have her conditions and aspirations thoroughly understood by a man who will in all probability have a hand in the shaping of the destinies of the empire and its component parts.

When he entered the House of Lords a few years ago an English writer said of him:—

"Lord Milner is still, as statesmen go, a young man, and he has, we may all hope, many years before him of distinguished service of his king and country. Rumor has already sent him prospectively to India to fill the highest position under the Crown. The advent of a Liberal Government, however, will keep him at home for some years to come. He may choose indeed to throw in his lot with the Unionist party, and there are at least three offices in the British Cabinet for which he would be admirably suited. Lord Milner's name is familiar enough to the British public, but personally he has yet to be introduced to it, for it is twenty-five years since 'Alfred Milner, Master of Arts,' contested Harrow in the Liberal interest. It cannot be doubted, however, that the more he is known the more popular he will be. Certainly the Unionist party will gain in Lord Milner a valuable recruit to the numbers of its first-class fighting men."

Lord Milner, as everyone knows, is a bachelor. His name has never been associated, even in rumor, with any "not impossible she." Viscount Kitchener has been married again and again in popular report. But gossip has been compelled to leave Milner severely alone. It is said indeed that he has never been in love. A story is told how the subject of matrimony arose when Lord Milner was once riding with a party of friends near Capetown. The High Commissioner surprised his fellow-cavaliers by saying with a twinkle in his eye,

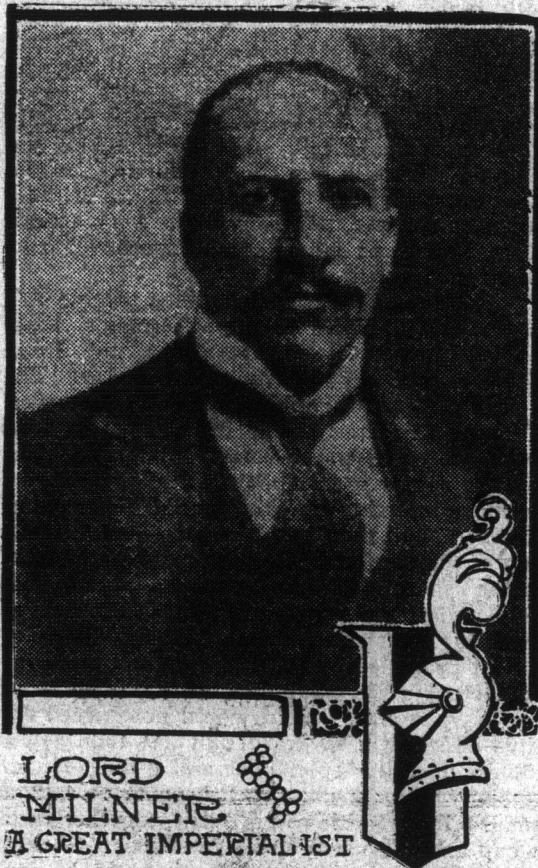
"Well, you know I am engaged." Thereat there was a general burst of spontaneous laughter. Lord Milner turned with affected indignation on his friends saying, "What, do you think I am too ugly?" One little trait of Milner's personality has never been mentioned. He seems to be entirely devoid of any taste in dress. For correctness of costume he seems to have not the faintest concern. He will wear a frock coat and a necktie without any mutual kinship or congruity whatever. Many of his portraits illustrate this defect, which he shares with a large number of other distinguished men. Well-groomed of course he always is, but his indifference to dress is quite remarkable.

In person Lord Milner is tall and spare, though not too slightly built. The magnetic charm which he quite unconsciously exercises on all who are brought into contact with him has often been remarked. During his official life in London he seems to have been something of a mystery. Those who remembered him, say that there was something cryptic and reserved about his personal bearing, as though he were the repository of profound secrets which in no circumstances would he reveal. This is not the impression of the Milner as he was known in South Africa. Most people must have been struck with the astonishing frankness, possibly, of course, a form of "new diplomacy," with which he would discuss all the problems of Imperial politics. Nobody seemed to be less afraid of opening his heart and mind than the High Commissioner.

Lord Milner was intensely hated by the Dutch as a body. But this hatred was entirely political. One could scarcely imagine how any mortal, whether British or Dutch, could feel any personal dislike of Lord Milner. Those who heard him speak in the House of Lords must have been agreeably surprised with his oratorical ability. But in the capacity of public speaker he was well known in South Africa. He has a beautifully modulated voice, and his sentences, without being too literary and pedantic, are always perfectly turned. "I admit," he once said, "that there are many questions on which I have not been able to form an opinion at all; and in that Greek State in which, if I remember rightly, a man was bound to take one side or the other, on pain of death, I should have had my head cut off before I was twenty-five."

Everyone knows that he achieved exceptional distinction at Oxford. But the great secret of Milner's life is that he has always been ready to accept and do justice to the positions of honor and responsibility in which he has been successively placed. His industry has always been remarkable. Work has been to him not only business but recreation. He

seems to have been quite without hobbies, athletic, or musical or artistic. It is not certain that he has ever played any game of any kind. In South Africa he rode much on horseback. But even in this art he made very little progress. He rode, it is true, fearlessly and recklessly, often to the no small anxiety of the members of his staff who accompanied him. But his seat was always of the loosest. It is said that on one occasion, when receiving a deputation of Boers, he suddenly fell from his horse, thereby spoiling the impressive dignity of the occasion.



Many stories have been told of his mode of life when he was Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenues. He would work at his official duties fifteen or sixteen hours of the day. Four or five hours' sleep sufficed for him, and his only exercise was a brief early morning ride in the park. He carried these habits with him to South Africa, where severe application becomes more and more necessary, owing to the climate, to persons of European birth. Almost the first task he imposed on himself was to master the Dutch language, and to acquaint himself thoroughly with all the habits,

idiosyncrasies, and prejudices of the Cape Dutch. His conscientious devotion to this task aroused some anxiety among the Cape British. They suspected that it meant an undue sympathy on the part of the Imperial representative to one section of His Majesty's subjects. Of course, nothing could be more absurd. Sir Alfred Milner was simply qualifying himself as usual in every possible way for the great responsibility he had assumed.

Lord Milner owes his success mainly to his own abilities and industry. He began life without any advantages of birth or wealth or family influence. His father was a physician who had settled in Stuttgart, in Germany, and to this fact is due the statement, so often repeated by Lord Milner's enemies, that he is a German. His mother was a Miss Ready, the daughter of an English Major-General who was at one time Governor of the Isle of Man. Both parents died long before young Alfred Milner had entered public life. He had neither brother nor sister, and has, it is said, no near relative at all.

Like other distinguished men, Lord Milner served his apprenticeship to statecraft in the school of journalism. Thirty years ago Mr. Stead and Mr. Alfred Milner were writing "Occasional Notes" for The Pall Mall Gazette. In those days Milner was a long, thin, apathetic young man. He affected no sports, such as an Oxford graduate might aspire to, but was an accomplished and persistent swimmer. Of the "copy" Milner used to turn out Mr. Stead says it was "the most untidy I have ever had to deal with. He sprawled all over the paper." As a rule, Milner went about his daily tasks bareheaded. It is said that the only light article he ever wrote for the newspaper was the imaginary diary of a number of South African savages on a visit to London. He did it so well that many readers considered it the work of a savage chief.

When Mr. Joseph Chamberlain resigned the Colonial Secretaryship Lord Milner was asked to succeed him; but he declined, believing that his duty at that time was to remain in South Africa.

Nearly two years ago now Lord Milner delivered an important address at Manchester embodying a strong plea for Imperialism and Social Reform which it was instantly asserted placed him in the front rank of British statesmen.

The London Times referring editorially to the Manchester speech, said:—"It is remarkable because, at a time when party feeling runs high, he made no reference whatever to the party polemics of the moment, for which he declared himself to have neither aptitude nor taste; and also because he discussed the questions which really interest him

—those affecting the permanent interests and the very existence of the British empire—with a breadth of view, a gravity of statement, and a comprehensive sobriety which are only too rare among our public men. His speech is welcome, not only on account of its intrinsic value, but also because it marks the entry of Lord Milner after a necessary and well-earned period of repose, upon a field of political labor in which workers are few. In the great self-governing states which for want of a better word we still call colonies, the speech will be read with a keen interest which the accepted orators of the day have little chance of arousing, and will do as much as one man not in office can do to inculcate patience in the present and hope for the future."

GREAT PUBLIC SERVANT

"The late Sir Edward Hamilton was a distinguished member of that silent hierarchy who, screened from public view, exercise considerable influence on our public affairs," says the Chronicle. "Statesmen come and go. The Civil Servant remains. He is the depository of the traditions of his department, the link connecting the old with the new, the pupil it may be of this great statesman, the mentor of statesmen of a new generation. Sir Edward Hamilton took an active part in the preparation of no fewer than twenty-two Budgets, and was a trusted adviser to Chancellors of the Exchequer of such different characteristics as Sir William Harcourt, Mr. Goschen, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Lord Randolph Churchill, and Mr. Ritchie.

"He learnt his craft at the feet of Gladstone, and perpetuated at the Treasury the sound traditions of that consummate master of finance. Mr. Gladstone watched over the national expenditure with the jealous scrutiny that a thrifty housewife gives to her household bills. Sir Edward Hamilton shared his passion for economy, and shared also his unselfish devotion to the nation's interests. He was Gladstone's private secretary during many strenuous years. The relations between him and the great statesman were ideal. Mr. Gladstone was an exacting and punctilious chief. But he was most generous in his appreciation of efficient and devoted service. 'As to your services to me,' he wrote to Sir Edward Hamilton in 1885, 'they have been simply indescribable.' Sir Edward on his part cherished for Mr. Gladstone an intense admiration, and he paid loving tribute to his memory in a charming monograph published in 1898. It may be said of Sir Edward Hamilton what he himself finely said about Mr. Gladstone, 'What he desired most to find in men was character; in measures, equity.'"

A Problem of the Age

LONG correspondence on "Ideals of Marriage" has taken place in the columns of the Daily Telegraph. In concluding this controversy, the Telegraph says that "It has served a useful purpose. It has raised broad issues which have remained too long in abeyance. It has set people thinking and talking on some of the gravest questions which affect the social and family life of this country. Above all, it has helped to bring home to the public mind and sympathy some faint conception of the enormous mass of married wretchedness and misery which is endured by some with patience—sad patience, too near neighbor to despair—but by others with impatience and indignation. No one can doubt that the latter class is in a majority, which is constantly increasing. The victims of unhappy marriages have begun to ask themselves why their chains should not be broken, and the usual answer returned to them does not seem by any means conclusive.

"The Lambeth Encyclical has proclaimed to the people of England that the Church holds to the strict letter of the Scripture, and so far from consenting to countenance any increase of facilities for divorce, distinctly pronounces such increase to be 'terrible' and an evil to be fought with all the weapons at her command. Those whose happiness has been wrecked must continue to suffer. Those who find that their marriage vows have bound them to partners with whom life is intolerable must never look for escape. They must seek from religion strength to endure; they must practise a rigorous and continual self-control. 'There lies thy cross; beneath it meekly bow'—such is the answer of the Church to those who have turned to her for help and practical sympathy.

"It will, indeed, be a lamentable thing if over this question of the reform of the marriage laws Church and State find themselves ranged in open hostility. Yet that is bound to come if the Church takes its stand obstinately upon the ground that adultery alone is to be recognized as the one solvent of the otherwise indissoluble marriage bond. The general public opinion of our time—as is witnessed by the marriage laws of all other civilized and Christian countries—is against that narrow view. Rarely, indeed, is anyone to be found in private life who refuses to admit that hopeless insanity ought to be considered a sufficient ground for the dissolution of a marriage which is no marriage. Desertion lasting over a certain term of years; confirmed drunkenness

and confirmed ill-usage; who is there who is not in his heart convinced that these are crimes against marriage, whether considered either as a holy sacrament or as a civil contract, which are just as morally hateful and antisocial as the sin of adultery itself?

"The fear of the Church, no doubt, has always been that if once the indissolubility of marriage is tampered with, there will be no stopping the loosening process, and lower estimates of marriage will prevail with consequent increase of scandal. We have sufficient scandals of our own already, as this correspondence has brought to light, but the point is that the Church, by its unbending attitude, promises to bring about the very evils which it deprecates. The rightful place of the Church is by the side of the State in this matter—not in opposition to it. It should guide the marriage law reform movement in accordance with the needs of suffering humanity, not set itself to thwart it.

"The whole question of the marriage laws is one of extraordinary complexity—to pretend that it can be settled by declaring that adultery alone can sever the bond is to trifle with the facts. And the complexity has been enormously intensified by the operation of the Summary Jurisdiction Act of 1895. The effect of that Act has been that in thirteen years some 80,000 separation orders have been granted by the magistrates, affecting, of course, 160,000 married people. These persons have been freed by the law from the active galling of their chains. The ill-assorted unions have been broken. Husbands and wives now pursue their separate paths. But they are debarred from marrying again so long as their late partners are alive, and their freedom is illusory with respect to the most important step in which freedom can be exercised.

"The Act was passed through Parliament without adequate consideration, and it has brought into existence a new class of married, but separated, men and women, who possess all the privileges of divorce save the freedom to marry again. We find men of magisterial experience like Mr. Plowden urging that in these matrimonial cases either full divorce should be granted or nothing, and declaring that 'no big mistake would be made if the grounds which suffice for a judicial separation under the Act of 1895 were taken as the ground-work for obtaining a divorce.'

"Such a proposition goes a long way beyond what the moderate advocates of divorce law reform have been pressing for, but that is

the natural outcome of ill-considered legislation on important themes. We are not at all sure that public opinion desires to see courts of summary jurisdiction endowed with the power of granting full divorce, nor are we convinced that full divorce should be obtainable on every ground for which it is now possible to obtain judicial separation. But that the laws require amendment is clear.

"Before they are amended, however, a full inquiry should be instituted by competent authorities, which should consider the whole problem from the view of the Church, and from the view of the individual. Whether these triple interests can be brought into harmony one with another is, we fear, doubtful, especially when we remember the references to divorce in the Lambeth Encyclical. It is not, in our opinion, a question of the exact interpretation of texts of Scripture, but of what is reasonably best for frail humanity in this tortured world, when the golden harp gives out a jangled strain, and love has changed to loathing.

The Labor movement in English politics dates back over thirty years. In the general election of 1874, thirteen candidates contested constituencies as direct representatives of trade unionism. Two—Alexander Macdonald and Thomas Burt—were successful. But with the repeal, in 1875, of the obnoxious Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1871, and the substitution of the Employers' and Workmen's Act of 1875 for the Master and Servant Act of 1867, the movement appeared to subside, and although Mr. Burt has sat continuously for Morpeth since his first election in 1874, he has been gradually absorbed into the Liberal party. In 1892, with the Liberal successes at the polls, seventeen candidates directly representing Labor were elected, but few of these Labor members survived the Conservative victory of 1895. In the parliaments of 1895-1900 and 1900-1906, Labor exercised but little influence, and except for Keir Hardie, who was elected to represent the mining constituency of Merthyr Tydfil in 1900, there was not an openly avowed Socialist in parliament before 1906. Alarm and panic seized the Conservative party, and even affected Liberals, when in January, 1906, the various Labor and Socialist organizations put eighty-nine candidates into the field, and polled over half a million votes. Fifty of these candidates were elected, thirty belonging to the Labor party, which is avowedly Socialist, and the other twenty forming the trade union groups, which in the first two sessions of the present parliament sat and voted with the government.—Forum.

A Warning to London

INEFFICIENT Londoners and how they are produced is the subject of a very important section of the Report of the Royal Commission on the Care and Control of the Feeble-minded in England recently.

The commissioners made special inquiry regarding the cases of 128 children (100 boys and 28 girls), taken from remand homes at hazard, and in the case of forty children admitted to the residential homes of the Metropolitan Asylums Board. The results of these investigations present almost with brutality the social conditions from which feeble-mindedness passing into pauperism and crime is bred.

"Of the hundred boys," says the commissioners, "thirty-seven were graded as between 'backward' and 'mentally deficient.' Out of the twenty-eight girls, sixteen were so graded. If these proportions are applied to the number of girls treated year by year as juvenile offenders the seriousness of the question becomes apparent. If we take the girls at the remand home who were under seven years of age, in the three years they numbered thirty-two, of whom fifteen were living in immoral surroundings; and of girls thirteen years of age, ninety-three in all, fifteen were charged with stealing and larceny, ten with living in immoral surroundings, and thirty-six with wandering, etc. As mentally defective, after sixteen or later, more than half of these would be likely to come upon the public authorities, or on voluntary charity for support. The same would apply to over one-third of the boys under seven—forty-two in all—of whom nine were living in immoral surroundings and twenty-eight charged with 'wandering,' while at the age of thirteen, in the three years 1902 to 1904, there were 397 in the remand home, 111 charged with stealing, fifty-three with felony, six with living in immoral surroundings, and 139 with 'wandering.'

"Forty of these cases have been specially investigated, and were put before us as illustrative of the conditions of degradation which are thought to be productive of feeble-mindedness. In the forty cases, fourteen fathers (35 per cent) and ten mothers (25 per cent) were known to have been heavy drinkers. In two cases (5 per cent) death took place as the result of drinking. Phthisis was found in eleven fathers (27.5 per cent) and seven mothers (17.5 per cent). In the case of five fathers and one mother it was aggravated by alcoholism. Thus, of the total cases, 60 per cent were those of

drinkers, and 30 per cent of phthisical persons. Flagrant immorality was charged against six fathers (15 per cent) and seven mothers (17.5 per cent). Of the 127 children under care, nineteen (14.9) were illegitimate, and seventeen were deserted, many of whom it might reasonably be concluded were illegitimate also. Eight fathers (20 per cent) had been insane, and four mothers (10 per cent) of whom one had died in an asylum. Seven fathers (17.5 per cent) and five mothers (12.5 per cent) had suffered from nervous disorders.

"This evidence seems to the commissioners to be conclusive on two or three points. The children charged with offences are juvenile offenders form a group large enough to merit special consideration. They should be examined at an early age, and if mentally deficient should be kept under such conditions of education and supervision as may, as far as possible, prevent their ultimate dependence on the community. On the part of those charged with this duty there should be co-operation with every other authority that may possibly know their history and home already. The circumstances of the family should be taken into account in any decision that may be adopted in regard to their future; and their education, from the point of view of self-control and habit, should commence early. Evidently they are not likely to get this education at home. It would have to be furnished from without. Provision has not yet been made for it in London."

Victoria is the oldest port in Western Canada and always has had business houses with reputations unsurpassed in this or any other country; she has the largest stores of any city west of Winnipeg and the stocks carried are largely of English made goods brought around the "horn" in sailing ships and those immense freightage steamers which ply between Liverpool, China and Japan and this North Pacific Coast. The shipping business of Victoria is one of the largest in Canada, in fact for years it has been the third or fourth port. The amount of tonnage entering the harbor in 1906 was 1,603,752 tons.

You may as well throw away your old tent at the end of the season. Wiley will not be content next year with anything less than one like that which Roosevelt is going to use in his African hunt.

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