

...AT THE...

Editor's Desk

GLADSTONE is dead! The event has been expected any day for several weeks, and yet it is hard to realize that the greatest Englishman of the century is no more. Gladstone is dead! At this hour of writing the words are spoken throughout the Anglo-Saxon world in a tone that proclaims more than the name of an illustrious man wiped off the slate of the living; it is the subdued tone which men unconsciously adopt when it is suddenly brought home to them that they have suffered a personal loss. He was with us so long: our fathers and our fathers' fathers knew him; in their time, as in ours, he filled so large a space in the hearts and minds of his fellow men; that the living world seems strange without him; and we say again and again, as if we doubted we had heard aright, "Gladstone is dead." Men fought him on the political battle field; sometimes he conquered, sometimes he was conquered; sometimes he was in the right and sometimes in the wrong, but at all times, for over half a century, he stood in the eyes of the nation as the incarnation of all that was purest and noblest in public political life. The influence that radiated from him stopped not at party barriers, but was the gain alike of personal friend and political foe; spreading throughout the country; touching all men; limited not by national boundaries, but reaching into every land where the deepest reverence and the greatest admiration are not for the man who is merely great, but for the Man who is both Great and Good. And such in very deed was the Grand Old Man, for whom the people of a world-wide empire mourn with sorrowing hearts to-day.

THE announcement of Lord Aberdeen's impending retirement from the Governor-Generalship, has been received with genuine regret on all sides. The day passed long ago when the necessary qualifications of a Governor General of a British Colony consisted merely of blue blood, party influence and brains sufficient to perform the technical duties of the office in a perfunctory manner; and Canada has welcomed to her shores, as representatives of the Sovereign, a long line of men prominent in the field of statesmanship. Not only as a statesman, as we ordinarily accept the term, has Lord Aberdeen proved himself the equal of any of his predecessors, but it can be said without hesitation that he has surpassed them all in his efforts to identify himself with the country and the people he was sent to govern. His readiness to associate himself, not merely his name and a portion of the contents of his purse, but in active personal effort, with any movement making for the advancement of a good cause, and his equally keen interest in the different industries and institutions of the country, have brought him into close personal contact with thousands of Canadians of all classes, and will cause him to carry back to England a truer and more sympathetic conception of Canadian ideas and Canadian life—of the ideas and inner life of the people as a whole—than any of those who held the exalted office before him.

In all his efforts leading in this direction Lord Aberdeen has been ably seconded by the Countess, and we do not doubt that the knowledge their Excellencies have acquired "first hand" will be put to good account when the interests of Canada are receiving attention in the headquarters of the Empire.

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THERE is an object lesson for many

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