

The late Earl Cairns.



On Thursday, April 2nd, the simple and pathetic notice was posted, in Lady Cairn's handwriting, outside Lindisfarne, Bournemouth: "Lord Cairns entered into rest this morning, at 6.45." The life that was thus cut short, little after middle age, was throughout almost unexampled in its brilliancy and success. Hugh M'Cal-

mont, Earl Cairns, Viscount Gar-moyle of Gar-moyle, was born in the year 1819, being the second son of William Cairns, Esquire, of Cultra, County Down, Ireland. In his education and start in life, he received all the advantages wealth could bestow, through the interest of an uncle, who lived to see his nephew splendidly repay his early care. His boyhood was marked by that seriousness of purpose and character which is not uncommon in the case of youths with a great

future before them. At ten years of age an incident occurred which really determined the whole of his future career. Having heard, on a certain occasion, a well-known preacher in Belfast, an expression, uttered with great solemnity, made an indelible impression upon the boy's mind. "God claims you!" said the speaker. Young Hugh Cairns went home touched with a new sense of responsibility, and he thereupon definitely resolved to give himself thenceforth to Christ. The resolve bore fruit throughout his school and college life.

While Lord Cairns' intellectual greatness is the property of the nation, his deep and unaffected personal religion is a legacy to the Christian, both as an example and as a proof of the life-power of the Bible. Few men have ever been so fervent and devoted; and throughout his life he was eager in his protest against anything which he thought would intercept the light of the one Atonement of Jesus Christ.

His growth in grace, nourished by constant prayer and the study of the Scriptures, was



maintained throughout all the busy years of the successful lawyer and of the rising statesman. As a student he began his day's work at 6 a.m.; but rising every morning at 4 o'clock, two hours of prayer and of Scriptural study preceded his intellectual efforts. He honoured his profession by a consistent Christian walk. The story is well known of how he returned one of his first briefs—a very important one from a leading barrister—because the circumstances of the case would have required him to devote

the hours of Sunday to the study involved. "Six days a week," he said, in returning it, "I am *your* man; on the seventh day I am *God's* man only."

His death-bed was the crowning scene of a life of faith—bright, happy, unwavering in its trust. His last words were, "It is necessary for each one of us to follow in the steps of our great Master. Let nothing come between us and this," adding, with a threefold repetition, "Let nothing come between us and this." Thus the Christian statesman, lawyer, and philanthropist entered into rest!