

astical control at home and abroad, has converted a Royal Council into a House of Commons, has established the right of the meanest citizen to a trial by his peers, has secured forever inviolate the right of free speech, free press, and free worship, has transferred executive authority from an irresponsible king to a responsible ministry, amenable to the people for every act and every neglect to act. Jesus Christ laid two foundation-stones of future society in the two principles give to His disciples: Call no man master; and He that would be greatest among you, let him be servant of all. It is because Great Britain has moved so steadily, so gradually, but also so surely toward the realization of these principles that she has attained her present imperial proportions. It is because Mr. Gladstone has been her pre-eminent leader in this forward movement during the past half-century that we count him the greatest of European statesmen.

The story of Mr. Gladstone's life is the history of European liberty during the years of his public service. The condemnation visited upon him by his critics is his glory. His political inconsistencies are those of a man who dares to grow. By tradition and temperament a Conservative, he has been a Liberal from principle, and his Liberalism in principle has been wisely moderated by his temperamental Conservatism. With that felicity of phrasology which distinguishes his unique eloquence, he has described the age in a single compact sentence as one characterized by "the gradual transfer of political power from groups and limited classes to the community, and the constant seething of the public mind in fermentation upon a vast mass of moral and social as well as merely political interests."

In promoting this transfer Mr.

Gladstone has been the most potent influence in Great Britain; to his moderation is largely due the fact that this transfer has been gradual, by evolution, not by revolution. In this fermentation of the public mind he has been kept calm by his profound Christian faith. In the resultant mists and fogs his mind has been kept clear by the pre-eminence which he has always given to moral over merely political considerations. In the transition age in which he has lived he has been an object of historical interest and of moral admiration on two continents. He was probably the most warmly beloved and the most hotly hated man of modern times—unless Bismarck rivals him. But there was this difference: feudalism loves Bismarck and democracy hates him; feudalism hated Gladstone and democracy loved him.

So far we have spoken of him only as a statesman and in his relations to his age and nation. But, in addition thereto, the singular contradictions of his nature made him the most noteworthy figure in modern English if not in all modern history. His mastery of minute details and his grasp of great principles, his philosophical temperament and his marvellously accurate memory, his executive and administrative skill and his persuasive eloquence, his gentleness and his courage, his self-depreciation and his authoritative leadership, his skill in affairs and his classical scholarship, his political sagacity and his theological learning, his intense and even narrow churchmanship and his catholic appreciation of all that is good and true in denominations not only different from but openly hostile to and jealous of his own, his uncompromising identification of himself with the conservative forms of Christian thought, and the admiration he has evoked in men of