

seat. It is difficult to guess how the new agricultural voter will go. My impression is that in Scotland his vote will be mainly Conservative, and in England, mainly Radical. Eventually, I do not doubt that the agricultural laborers will constitute a distinct accession of strength to the Radical party. But I do not think they are yet sufficiently organized for their vote to tell much one way or the other on the result of the next election. In the large towns, Conservatism is certainly growing. And if, between this and next November, Lord Salisbury can effect an appreciable improvement in the condition of our foreign relations, I think he is not at all unlikely to secure a majority in the next Parliament. But all these calculations may be upset by the failure of the very hazardous experiment on which the new Cabinet has ventured by its decision not to renew the Irish Crimes Act.

"Yours very sincerely,

"LYTTON."

In the letter which follows, we have a very fair portrait of that brilliant, original, but erratic statesman, Lord Randolph Churchill. His career has justified Lord Lytton's words. Office was irksome to him, and the "big herd of tame elephants" failed to sweeten a life which constantly chafed under restraint. In this letter also, we get a word or two about *Glenaveril*, which was then progressing, and a line about the author's life of his father, two volumes only, of which, however, were ever published—a positive loss to the biographical literature of our time, for every chapter betrayed good work. It will be remembered that in 1885, Lord Lyons, once Minister at Washington, which Sir Julian Pauncefote describes as one of the most beautiful cities in the world, was British Ambassador at Paris. Failing health prompted some of his friends to say that he would likely retire from that responsible post, at an early day, and

Lord Lytton was mentioned as his possible successor. There was really no truth in the rumor, at that time.

In 1854, Lord Lytton was attaché at the Embassy at Paris, and after a career at the Hague, St. Petersburg, Constantinople, Vienna, Copenhagen, Athens, and Lisbon, he returned to the French Capital, in 1872, as Secretary of the Embassy. Lord Lyons died in office, December 4th, 1887, and the Salisbury Government immediately appointed Lord Lytton to succeed him. The latter died at Paris, in 1891.

"KNEBWORTH HOUSE, STEVENAGE,
"13 Aug., 1885.

"Many thanks for your letter of the 31st July.

"In all you say about our political situation at home, I generally agree. Lord Randolph has conspicuous ability, without much ballast. Office, however, is a great soberer, and at the India office, he is surrounded by a big herd of tame elephants, who, I hope, will keep him straight on Indian affairs. His budget speech was a very able one, tho' its condemnation of Lord Ripon's financial administration—which was fully deserved—would, I think, have been more effective had the tone of it been less personal.

"Will Riel be hanged? There was no truth in the report you heard about my succeeding Lord Lyons, whose term of service is not yet expired.

"I think the 3rd and 5th books of *Glenaveril* will probably please you better than the two first.

"I have been much interrupted in the completion of my biography of my father, and have not yet published any more of it. I start next week for Switzerland with Lady Lytton.

"Yours very truly,

"LYTTON."

In the letter, dated September 29th, there is a pleasant and touching allusion to the author's firm and unvarying friend, Archdeacon Farrar,