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## Mannerisms of Famous M.P.'s.

By a Pressman Who Has Seen Them.

"He looks like a good boy—mother's darling, in fact; immaculate to a degree. But he talks like a sage." There is no more apt and happier description of Mr. P. E. Smith, K.C., the youngest "silk" in England, and one of the youngest Parliamentary lights, than this, which has been applied to him by a well-known writer; and men of all parties are agreed that Mr. Smith can talk like a sage, albeit a somewhat bitter one at times, for he is a master of irony and sardonic humor.

Perhaps his most notable characteristic, however, is the rapidity with which he speaks, although of late he has been training himself to speak more slowly. Still, members of the Press gallery, when Mr. Smith gets on his feet, usually feel some misgiving for, absorbed in his speech, he is apt to forget that there are limits to the capabilities of the best of shorthand writers. As he speaks Mr. Smith has a habit of thrusting his head forward as though to hurt his words with additional force at the members opposite. Indeed, at times he bends so far forward as to seem almost in danger of falling on his face.

"Ulster's King." The rapier-like methods of Mr. P. E. Smith for his actions are almost as rapid as his words—a striking contrast to the more "bludgeon-like" speech and tactics of Sir Edward Carson—"Ulster's King," as he has been termed by his critics. Sir Edward still retains that Irish brogue which his Nationalist opponents find a delight to the ear.

One of the best stories told of Sir Edward Carson, which illustrates his wit as well as providing an example of his brogue, is that of an incident which occurred in a case in which he appeared.

"Ar-re ye a teetotaller?" he asked of the bottle-nosed man in the witness box.

"No, I'm not," said the bottle-nosed man, with resentment.

"Ar-re ye a moderate drinker?"

No answer.

"Should I be right if I called ye a heavy drinker?"

"That's my business," said the bottle-nosed man, stiffly.

"An-y other business?"

It was a knock-out blow, typical of the man whose masterful fighting spirit is manifested by the challenge thrust of the under-lip, the heavy jaw, and the ponderous manner in which he brings down his fist into the palm of the other hand, or flings his arms magnificently above his head with dramatic gesture when wishing to emphasize some particular part of his speech.

On the other hand, his equally famous legal confrere, Sir Rufus Isaacs, has practically no gestures. Rather does he rely for effect on quiet, incisive manners. He will grip with both hands the lapels of his coat, something like Mr. Balfour is in the habit of doing, as he delivers, with cutting emphasis, his criticism of his opponents. Or it may be that he will lean slightly forward with the tips of his fingers daintily placed on the table of the House. This was always his favorite pose in the courts.

Sir Rufus is not a man of many words. What he says he likes to say briefly, and quickly. In this respect he is somewhat different to the Premier, who, of late years, seems to have become somewhat laconic and terse. As an orator, Mr. Asquith is inclined to run to long and involved sentences, and in his speech on the Welsh Church Bill recently he delivered himself, in replying to Lord Hugh Cecil of a sentence containing 188 words.

His coolness is proverbial. With his left hand thrust in his trouser-pocket, and holding a sheet of newspaper in the other hand, he will deliver a speech in a calm, lawyer-like manner, which he allows nothing to upset.

For an illustration of his coolness

of the Eyelids

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Mrs. Martin, 13 Carroll street, Toronto, formerly of Bowmanville, Ont., writes: "We have used Dr. Chase's Ointment for years, and found it invaluable in treating skin irritations and all sorts of burns and wounds. In fact, we would not be without it in the house. It is a most excellent treatment for granulated eyelids, from which I suffered without finding anything to help me."

Whenever there is itching of the skin or a sore that refuses to heal you can use Dr. Chase's Ointment with full assurance that it will prove entirely satisfactory. 50 cents a box, all dealers, or Edimasson, Baker & Co., Limited, Toronto.

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one has only to go back to the recent incident when a man threw from the Strangers' Gallery a bag of flour on the floor of the House, presumably at the Premier, who was speaking at the time. It missed Mr. Asquith and fell near the Speaker's table. For a moment there was great excitement in the House, as the strangers rushed forward to the Chamber. Mr. Asquith merely glanced at the gallery, waited for half a minute until the excitement had subsided, and then continued his speech from the interrupted sentence, as though nothing out of the ordinary had happened.

"His Majesty." The Chancellor of the Exchequer is not given to many gestures when speaking, except that when moved more than usual he vigorously thumps the table of the House, as though to drive home his arguments. But he has a curious habit, when making a speech, of introducing each different point with the words, "Well, now." It is a little oratorical trick which recalls the favorite word, "Forsooth!" of Mr. John Redmond.

The Irish leader when induly excited rolls out this word in a manner which might well frighten anyone unused to his peculiar mannerism. In ordinary circumstances, however, Mr. John Redmond is as cool and calculating as Mr. Asquith. Indeed, on more than one occasion his imposing walk and dignified, commanding mien has led to him being dubbed "His Majesty." But Mr. Redmond can unbend, and it is only necessary to see him walking on the Terrace of the House or in the Lobby, with both hands thrust deep into his trouser pockets and head thrown back, laughing heartily at some joke, to understand that it is his geniality, as well as genius as a politician, which has made him so popular with his friends.

Perfect Temper.

But there is no more popular man in the Commons than Mr. Birrell, who absolutely refuses to be ruffled by any remarks of his opponents.

"I respect the honorable gentleman opposite," he said, during one speech, alluding to an opponent whose views he was severely criticizing.

"I don't want your respect," came the ungracious remark across the floor of the House.

"The honorable gentleman cannot prevent me respecting him," said Mr. Birrell, smilingly, and the House chuckled.

But he came perilously near to a mixture of metaphors in his peroration in the Home Rule debate. He said: "This Bill is open, no doubt, to many objections, some of which time will reveal, but for the time being it holds the field. The Liberal Party, associated with all those who are hearty Home Rulers, will abate neither a jot of heart nor hope, but steer right onwards."

And perhaps one might conclude the article with Mr. Bonar Law, whose Christian name by the way is pronounced as though it were spelled "Bonner." A man of many pockets is the leader of the Opposition, who, while other members lounge on the benches in all sorts of attitudes, usually sits erect, as though determined to be stern and uncompromising, and when he gets up to speak he will dive first into one pocket and then into another for his various references. But always in a cool, unembarrassed manner, and he never seems at a loss to know in which pocket to find a particular reference.

It is said of Mr. Law that he has never coined an epigram, and that he has never been guilty of a joke, but as an orator he is known as one who always hits, without wasting superfluous words, straight from the shoulder, and thus for his grimness and downness about his words and actions which has earned for him the reputation of being one of the most tenacious politicians in the House to-day.

—The Mts.

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