

It happened that, at the time of my leaving England, I had before me an offer of the nomination of my party for a Parliamentary constituency in which it had a sure majority. I had a similar overture after settling here. Had I ever desired it, a political career was open.

Intercourse with European patriots such as Garibaldi and Mazzini I do not think it necessary to excuse. I will not shelter myself under Disraeli's "Revolutionary Epick." Mazzini, let me say in passing, assured me that he had never taken part in an assassination plot.

Disraeli twice attacked me very personally in the House of Commons. On the first occasion it was for advocating the cession of the Ionian Islands to Greece. He charged me with wanting to break up the Empire. We now know that he told Lord Malmesbury in confidence that the colonies were millstones round the neck of England; and this language, his great friend, Sir W. Gregory, tells us, he held in private to the end of his life. His second attack was for advocating the abolition of entail.

This practice of libelling under color of fiction surely is cowardly and mean. It may lend impunity to the vilest slander. Generally recognized as the allusion may be, the person traduced, if a pseudonym is used, cannot right himself without seeming to put the cap on his own head.

Yours faithfully,

GOLDWIN SMITH.

Toronto, April 7, 1905.

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Since my letter appeared in *The Nation* I have been told that a key to the personal allusions in "Lothair" was furnished by a friend of Disraeli, a man of high rank, to the late Queen, whose son and heir had been for sometime a pupil of the person most malignantly traduced. This rather increases my wish that the truth should be known to my friends.

I may as well at the same time brush a speck of dust from another reputation, also traduced by Disraeli, and of incomparably more importance than my own.