

# Editorial Settings

## Our Frontispiece.

THE RT. HON. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN, M.P., of whom our frontispiece is a remarkably good picture, is to-day the second foremost figure in British politics. As Secretary for the Colonies, he is directly associated with the Imperial administration of Canadian affairs, and should any difficulties arise in our relations with foreign powers, we shall look to him with confidence for the best protection of our interests. Mr. Chamberlain was born in London in 1836, and in later years, while living in Birmingham as a member of the firm of Nettlefold & Chamberlain, became a local celebrity by reason of the interest he took in public affairs, his advanced Radical opinions and his fluency of speech. In 1868 he was appointed Chairman of the first Executive Committee of the Education League, and also a member of the Birmingham Town Council. Elected a member of the Birmingham School Board, he became, in 1870, its Chairman. Mr. Chamberlain is also an Alderman of Birmingham, and was three times elected Mayor of the same town. He retired from business in 1874, when he came forward to oppose Mr. Roebuck at Sheffield, but was defeated. In 1876, however, he was returned for Birmingham, and again, in 1880, he was elected for the same borough in company with Messrs. Bright and Muntz. Soon after this triumph, under Gladstone's administration he became President of the Board of Trade, with a seat in the Cabinet. During this administration Mr. Chamberlain continued to be a prominent member of the Radical party, and was generally regarded as the leader of its "advanced wing", but after the formation of Mr. Gladstone's Cabinet of 1880 (in which he held the post of President of the Local Government Board) he resigned from its

ability to agree with the Prime Minister's Home Rule policy. At the general election of 1886, when he was returned unopposed for West Birmingham, he stood as a strong Unionist, and withdrew from the Gladstone party. In 1887 he went to the United States as Chairman of a Fisheries Commission, and signed the treaty in 1888. He went again to the States in the autumn of that year, and married Miss Endicott. On the elevation of Lord Hartington to the peerage, Mr. Chamberlain was nominated the leader of the Liberal-Unionist party in the House of Commons, and since this time he has untiringly opposed his former colleagues. His shrewd, vigorous and determined handling of President Kruger in the South African difficulty proved more than anything else the adaptation of the man to the office he now holds, and has increased his popularity to a marked degree. Although early in his career he was a Radical of the Radicals, with the ripening of his intellect he developed, as is generally the case with a tractable mind, a wholesome conservatism; and to-day no Tory can outdo him in the active promotion of Imperial unity and the consolidation of the Empire. Cool, skilful and logical in debate, his clear, vivid, incisive manner of expression, together with his overpowering personality, make him a formidable opponent to those who would thwart his will. Few men have risen to his altitude in so short a time and with no better opportunities at the outset, and few among his political contemporaries have a more favourable prospect of one day being raised to the peerage of the realm.

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