

## The Standard



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## MR. ASQUITH'S PLATFORM.

Mr. Asquith's programme speech indicates that the Lords are not to be "strangled" after the summary fashion proposed in the fiery address of some of his colleagues. Should the Liberals win the Lords will still be a part of Parliament. The power that is to be thrown out of the House of Commons shall control public finance. What Mr. Asquith now declares to be unwritten law will be settled by statute, and the Lords themselves will be obliged to assent to this bill. As the Lords profess to be perfectly willing to give effect to the will of the people this issue is left with the electors.

While Mr. Asquith declares that there is only one issue before the nation he introduces another. For the first time since 1895, if not since 1892, a distinct authoritative pledge is given to the Home Rule party that if the Liberals win Home Rule legislation will follow. The Liberal party has been in power four years with a majority large enough to pass any government measure through the House of Commons. In that time no action was taken or proposed in the direction of Home Rule. Mr. Asquith says that there were reasons against it which seemed sufficient. He does not state them, but the reason which suggests itself is that in the Parliament now dissolved or dissolving the Liberal majority was so large that the Irish vote was not needed. In the next House nationalist votes may be required to keep the government in office or to place it there. The announcement appears to be the ratification of a campaign bargain.

Home Rule leaders have within the last few weeks prepared the public for this announcement from the Premier. They have declared that Ireland never had an opportunity like the present to strike for her own cause. They have pointed out that the time was at hand when Home Rulers would hold the balance of power and would be able to dictate terms. Evidently they have done so and the terms have been accepted. Mr. Asquith, himself, has not been regarded since 1893 as an ardent Home Ruler. Mr. Morley, Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. H. Gladstone and some others of his colleagues have been all along in favor of the policy of 1902 but they are not supposed to have had much sympathy from the Premier or Mr. Haldane, or Sir Edward Grey. Since Lord Rosebery referred the question to the decision of "the dominant partner" liberalism has offered little cheer to the Nationalists. Therefore the distinct promise of a parliament at Dublin may be regarded as almost a new platform. It is a tribute to the precision with which Mr. Redmond and his friends selected their opportunity.

This new issue is liable to divide attention with the constitutional question. What effect will it have in driving back to the Conservative fold those free trade Unionists who left the Liberal party nearly a quarter of a century ago to defeat Home Rule? How will it strike the nonconformists who are alleged to be almost unanimously against the Lords, even those like Sir Robert Perks who are also against the budget? Sir Robert's particular aversion in the other branch of Parliament is not the land holding peers, but the bishops. But there are many in his alliance of dissenters to whom a parliament in Dublin would seem almost as dangerous as a complete parliament of spiritual peers at Westminster.

## A WONDERFUL RESCUE.

Most people are familiar with the story of Helen Keller, who without the senses of sight and hearing and the native use of speech has become a scholar, an author, and a public character, and is apparently one who gets as much of the good of life as the most fortunate of her fellows. But it is known that she is a remarkably intellectual woman, who from her infancy had the advantage of the best training that money could buy, or skill added to devotion could devise.

Principal Fraser, of the School for the Blind in Halifax, has a story of another class of student whose likeness to Helen Keller is mainly in their physical disadvantages. This boy at eleven years of age was without training of any kind. He was weak and undisciplined, and his mind was almost a blank when he reached the age at which Helen Keller had a high school training and was in contact with strong and inspiring intellectual influences. Professor Fraser gives a record of a little more than two years, which, when all things are considered is not less wonderful and encouraging than the history of Helen Keller. This is Mr. Fraser's account:

"One of the most interesting pupils now attending this school is a boy named Albion Nickerson, who was born in Tidville, Digby county, Nova Scotia, on June 25th 1896. When six months old he had a severe illness which resulted in the loss of both sight and hearing. He entered this institution in April, 1907, at which time his mind was almost a blank, his temper uncontrollable, his habits undesirable, and his physique weak and puny. I realized that the intellectual training of the boy in such a condition was practically impossible, and that efforts should first be made to train him in habits of cleanliness and to give him regular outdoor exercise. He was next placed in the kindergarten class and a beginning was made in teaching him the ordinary kindergarten occupations. For many months there appeared to be but little improvement in the boy's mental condition, but as he grew more robust and his interest became awakened, he ceased to give way to fits of temper and began to take an eager interest in everything that he could recognize by touch. As a means to his

development his teacher made him responsible for the taking out and putting away of the appliances used in the schoolroom. This duty was performed by him in a most satisfactory and painstaking manner and the lessons of order and neatness thus indicated the boy was not slow in applying elsewhere. In due time the commencement was made in teaching him through the manual alphabet the names of objects which were placed in his hands or which he had sought out for himself. After acquiring a limited vocabulary he was taught to recognize the names of the same objects when printed in the Braille system, and now he is able to both read and write in this system all the words which he has learned. If a cup or spoon or knife or fork be handed to him he will immediately spell the name of the object with his fingers or write it out in the Braille point system. If on the other hand his teacher spells upon her fingers the name of an article such as key or hands him a slip of paper with the word key written in Braille he will at once select from a dozen or more articles the key or whatever other article may be required. Albion displays an eager interest in his work, and no pupil in the school appreciates his studies more than does this deaf-blind boy. He enjoys playing with his schoolmates and enters with zest into all the games in which he can participate. Leap-frog is one of his favorite amusements, and no one who has known the puny lad of two years ago would believe him to be the same boy as the sturdy, bright faced, energetic Albion of today. Of course this boy's education is only just begun, but enough has been accomplished to prove that he possesses mental faculties of no mean order and that with patience and perseverance upon the part of himself and his devoted teacher he is in a fair way to have opened to him a knowledge of the world in which he lives."

## MR. BALFOUR'S MANIFESTO.

Mr. Balfour's manifesto, as condensed and described by an apparently unsympathetic agency, is much less fervid than the heated temperature of the opening campaign speeches would lead us to expect. It has always been Mr. Balfour's way to keep cool when others were hottest. This plan worked well when he was secretary for Ireland. But a general election may call for different treatment. As we know from Mr. Balfour's reference to Lord Advocate Ure he can use strong language. This manifesto is an argument on the subject of a double chamber parliament, part of which is answered the same day by Mr. Asquith's statement that the Liberals do not propose to concentrate all the power in one chamber. But like Mr. Asquith's speech it contains also a declaration of policy. Mr. Balfour does not at this time go fully into the tariff question, but he declares that tariff reform is not only a part of the party programme, but it is the first and most important part.

It is yet a month before the election begins. Possibly the violent manner in which the Government began its campaign was not the best tactics. It will not be possible to maintain so much passion for five or six weeks. Mr. Balfour may be as well advised in opening the campaign with calm statement and argument, leaving his party a chance to work up gradually to the proper climax. The other method has been known to lead to anti climax.

## MISDIRECTED ARGUMENT.

Much long involved and travel-stained argument is advanced to show that Sir Wilfrid Laurier is not obliged by law to resign one of the two seats which he is now holding for the second session. These arguments appear to be met by the positive fact that Canada has tried to follow the British rule, and under the British system the Premier would be obliged to give up one seat at the beginning of the first session after the election.

But whatever technical case may be made or attempted to prove that Sir Wilfrid is not compelled to give up one seat, it is not even pretended that there is any law compelling him to hold them both. No statute, or rule, or order, or instrument of any kind impairs the rights and powers of the Premier to do the right and decent thing, and give up the seat which he cannot occupy. The ox in the fable might not have the statutory right to pitch the dog out of the manger, but the dog himself had the power to get out. Sir Wilfrid has double his share of seats. Instead of searching for ways to prevent an eviction he ought to be looking for the easiest way to give up what properly belongs to others.

## A SYDNEY CULPRIT.

And now that stalwart Liberal journal, the Sydney Record, organ of A. Johnston, ex-M. P., is under fire of the "Buccaneers" as the Sun would say. The Record is not satisfied with the Intercolonial management, and says so in plain words. Thereupon the dredging folk turn on them with a five tug power attack, charging that Mr. Johnston's Record is one of the plotters who wish to steal the Intercolonial and get rich out of the plunder, or "spoil" as it would be called in dredging circles. Now the gentlemen who own the Telegraph—we do not call them "buccaneers"—are receiving each year \$50,000 to \$100,000 worth of patronage from the Intercolonial. If the road were stolen this patronage might be lost. "By this craft we have our wealth," said a contractor at Ephesus some years ago, with the result that the crowd began to hurrah for Diana. The attempt to create a general applause for the Intercolonial management does not seem to be so successful. But at Ephesus the patronage does not appear to have been grasped by one concern.

The Sun, Star, Chronicle, Echo, and other railway stealers will welcome the inclusion of the Sydney Record in their cave. They are not yet forty.

## ASQUITH AGAINST WATSON.

"The Woman with the Serpent's Tongue," or that part of her represented by the daughter of the Premier, has made reply to the statement made in New York by Mr. William Watson. Miss Violet Asquith states that Mr. Watson is angry because her father did not make him a knight or crown him poet laureate. This is an explanation which would come better from the head of the Government and of the family.

Miss Asquith also announces that "Watson is a cad." Now why after all that has been said in condemnation of Mr. Watson for his alleged description of the Asquith ladies should the daughter furnish the poet with any evidence at all in support of his character sketch?

Dr. Cook is reported to be in a sanitarium and several other places. If he is able to travel and work the place where he should be is Copenhagen. He will probably be needed to support and explain his documents. If, as Captain Loos, or Loos says, Dr. Cook has no knowledge of navigation, and could not take an observation or find his way back from the pole if he got there, it would be as easy for the Danish astronomers to find it out as it was for the captain.

Lieutenant Governor Tweedie has been interviewed at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York and says that the prosperity of New Brunswick is steadily increasing. His Honor did not say that it was due to the change in the Provincial Administration.

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Cozy Warmth  
makes a pleasant home. Is there anything like a warm fire with your heating up to 186-11.

G. W. Williams,  
18 Waterloo Street.

Two Hamilton, Ont., men have been heavily fined for selling liquor without a license.

The Ontario apple shippers are to ask the Government to remove the \$1.50 duty on apples.

The Provost-Kelly Commission adjourned to await the opening of the Quebec Legislature for further instructions.

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THE SCHOLAR IN AMERICA

(Andrew Lang in the London Morning Post.)

"Scholarship has no real standing in the American community." This is the opinion of Professor Munsterberg stated in the Atlantic Monthly. He adds: "The foreigner feels at once that great difference between the American and the European. The British foreigner, if it is any consolation to Professor Munsterberg, would feel no difference. This scholar is, if I may say so, a scholar in that branch of learning. Now, do many of us know even by name the experimental psychologists of Britain? The death of Mr. Simon Newcomb 'did not bring the slightest ripple of excitement,' more interest was taken in the decease of a professional astronomer than a baseball team. Newcomb was the greatest American astronomer. I never heard of him before, and who in our greatest living astronomer? 'I have read of a Monomorph Ball,' as the poet says (and the scholar quoted the poet in a lecture) but his death (may it be remote) would not cause so much excitement as the death of a baseball team. Thus we see, at least, cannot throw the first stone at the American scholar. The Germans are different; they 'grieved the loss of men like Helmholtz, of Froude, with others were not ignored. But they, with the great German scholars, are not so much interested in human interest. The Roman History of Mommsen was 'as interesting as a novel,' whereas astronomy, except in the hands of the Marquis de Laplace, is a rather cold and remote affair. So in experimental psychology, except when it comes to crystal gazing and, with Mr. William James, the mediums and Mrs. Piper, myself, like Malvolio, 'think highly of the soul,' and of experiments in the science of souls. America does have festive festivals which seem odd, festive was more to the purpose. But the speakers at the festivities celebrated 'the departing administrative officer' (he was a burlesque, probably) and 'no one thought of the departing scholar.' That was very British. The public knows Mr. Arthur Evans as a candidate for the seat of the member for Oxford University.

"As member for Crete. He's a bad one to beat. But he's too good to waste on a 'Varsity seat.' This, however, is not the view which the public and the university take of the greatest of living archaeologists. They would bring him from 'Cnosso' to Westminster, casting a pearl before the politicians. The public is very human. 'It has no use for dead persons,' and revellers of buried civilizations. 'The public,' says our psychologist, 'does not consider the university professor primarily as a productive scholar, but essentially as an officer of the institution.' It is very odd of the public to consider a professor at all! But the public knows something about administration; about matters of disinterested intellectual activity, it knows no more than class; and scholars know about science men and science men about classical scholars. Men of 'world-wide reputation' in their own fields are generally unheard of at home.

In the United States and Germany the scholars are almost exclusively university professors, in striking contrast to France and England, where many of the greatest scholars have given up the university for the world. Professor Munsterberg may not

be aware that at our universities there are very few professors, and that they are rather decorative than utilitarian. Again, one can think of but few English scholars outside of the universities. Grote is the most prominent exception, unless we call Darwin a 'scholar'; the term is not commonly applied to him. But it is true that the scholar and the man of science, except historians, best known 'by their by-products,' lectures (with magic lanterns), magazine articles, and so on. How can it be otherwise? How can you expect the public to pore over metaphysics of Homeric grammar, and the 'Cypro-Arcadian dialect?' The Greeks were an intellectual people, but they did not dabble with excitement at the names of Zenodotus and Aristarchus, they put an end to Socrates, and Theocritus himself tells us that his own poetry was a drug on the market.

The Americans cannot give 'baronetcies for the leading scholars,' as we do, according to Professor Munsterberg. I am not able to remember any scholar who was given a baronetcy for his learning. Scholars, like the little modest girl at the school feast, may cry, 'I asked for nothing and I got nothing.' Baronetcies come by asking, not by merit.

The most direct reflection of this public situation in the college life is not the disrespect for high-grade class work, but still more, the unwillingness of the best men to turn toward a scholarly career. This is so far true that in reading the works of scholars with whom I do not agree I often feel that the less spiritless persons are not buying themselves with the 'thrill' of the scholar's life. The Americans are treated with so much prejudice, intolerance and haughty contempt of logic that Longfellow might have thought of his remark about 'the silly old man who does not know his own silly old business.' But it is not absence of worldly honor and reward that keeps the best minds apart from scholarship. It is their much greater natural interest in practical affairs. The scholar, like the poet, 'is born to be so'; he is naturally interested in the disinterested exercises of the mind. It was so in Greece. Nobody in Ionia thought much of Professor Thales, he was only a 'crank,' with peculiar opinions about water; was a scholar in the sense of Professor Munsterberg. But when he made a corner in oil mills, when he struck oil, and prevented other people from striking it, Ionia knew no bounds to her admiration. Let Professor Munsterberg make a corner in something say in radium, and America will ripple with excitement, while he will be mobbed by interviewers and photographers. Laputa was the right country for the professor; there only were scholars objects of popular enthusiasm. Meanwhile the scholar is not complaining; he is sincerely indifferent to baronetcies; he does not want to be a baronet; he is not anxious to see blazoned and black photographs of himself in the newspapers. Ambition, love of money, love of 'one crowded hour of glorious life,' take possessors men into the law, Wall Street, dentistry, that cut of Plato's 'great beast,' the political public and take them away from scholarship. Look at the case of the Honorable Bonaparte. He was a born Homeric critic; he remarks on the 'Iliad' (he used to read aloud to Gorgias, with comments) leave no doubts concerning his noble appreciation of the poet. But Homer was not enough for Napoleon, un happily, action and pleasure called to him, whereas to them the scholar says:

Too late for us your horns you blow Whose ply was taken long ago.

We are like children reared in shade Beneath some old world abbey wall. Forgotten in a forest glade, And secret from the eyes of all. Such is the scholar; he neither strives (except with other scholars)

nor cries for money, baronetcies, newspaper paragraphs, interviewers, nor any such thing. Napoleon, on the other hand, was too full of vitality to be content with commenting on Homer, which he could have done better than all the professors, and that is not saying much. He must overrun Europe, make kings and emperors, and in other respects have a very good time. To be sure it was a great deal of work, but he should be interested in the scholar, as such. To interest the world he must get into the Divorce Court, or make a corner in radium, or sport on platforms, or be an amateur champion at golf. Now the golf of professors is the worst in the world.

Attie Territorial Army, as thousands of honest men did who never wrote a line of poetry and were totally devoid of scholarship. In short, 'it takes all sorts to make a world,' but the scholar (if he does not invent gramophones and that kind of things) represents the sort which the world would most readily see die. Professor Munsterberg speaks lightly of Hegel as a force in the creation of Germany. But if Hegel had never been born he would never have been missed. Germany would stand where she does without Hegel, who is not quite so much read as he should be. The world has never yet been interested in the scholar, as such. To interest the world he must get into the Divorce Court, or make a corner in radium, or sport on platforms, or be an amateur champion at golf. Now the golf of professors is the worst in the world.

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nor cries for money, baronetcies, newspaper paragraphs, interviewers, nor any such thing. Napoleon, on the other hand, was too full of vitality to be content with commenting on Homer, which he could have done better than all the professors, and that is not saying much. He must overrun Europe, make kings and emperors, and in other respects have a very good time. To be sure it was a great deal of work, but he should be interested in the scholar, as such. To interest the world he must get into the Divorce Court, or make a corner in radium, or sport on platforms, or be an amateur champion at golf. Now the golf of professors is the worst in the world.

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