

and Lord Lansdowne. The strange vicissitudes of "C.-B.'s" career, from his acceptance of the leadership of a disorganized and mutinous party down to his death in the plenitude of power, have obscured his great merits as a departmental administrator. Lord Lansdowne's brilliant success as Foreign Secretary and as Leader of the Unionist Party in the House of Lords has thrown into the shade the years he spent at the War Office before the early disasters of the Boer War had exposed him to obloquy, the injustice of which is at last being recognized.

To both of these men, dissimilar in almost every respect, Haliburton was *persona gratissima*. With Sir Henry, perhaps, he was more thoroughly in accord, for though a strong Conservative in general politics, experience had taught him that the Conservatives of that date were by no means purged of their old distrust of Cardwell and his system. There was something, moreover, especially congenial to the son of Sam Slick in the pawky humour of the genial kindly Scot, who was so strangely misunderstood and underrated south of the Tweed. It has been charged against Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman that in the War Office he acted on the simple principle of letting the permanent officials have their own way. To anyone who knew the quiet, stubborn nature of the late Prime Minister the suggestion carries its own refutation; but he was quick at summing up his subordinates, and both in Sir Ralph Thompson and Sir Arthur Haliburton he had under him men of very exceptional calibre."

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V.

From this portion of the book onwards you see and hear a great deal of "C.-B.," and the impression of the man from the inside and in relation

to his subordinates confirms the outside impression of him. There are abundant specimens of that pawky humour which stood the late Premier in such good stead in the House of Commons, especially when he was being worried by a subordinate or a political friend. "C.-B." is always ready to praise his subordinate for his work. "You have eclipsed yourself in yesterday's *Times*," "C.-B." writes, after Haliburton had sent to that journal some stinging reply to some criticism made on his department:

"I never saw such a regular *culbute* as you give to the enemy. The letters are all admirable, even in the parts you yourself deprecate, where you "answer a fool according to his folly"; it will be invaluable to have them reprinted. But I must add that no praise, admiration, and gratitude can be too great for your gallant defence, single-handed."

It was words of generous recognition like these that accounted for the extraordinary popularity "C.-B." enjoyed among those who had to serve under him.

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VI.

Another of the interesting figures that pass along the stage in this biography is Sir Redvers Buller. This is Haliburton's verdict upon this curious, complex, and puzzling personality:

"I have a regard for Buller, in spite of our difference," he wrote to a friend in the dark days after Colenso. "He has many good points, though in a rough exterior and an explosive interior." "What a pity," he adds on another occasion, "such an able man should have so little judgment where he himself is concerned!"

When the Black Week in which Colenso figured came to Haliburton,