

were universally judged to be fit for the highest place only until they attained and held it. Our late Prime Minister belonged to that rarer class whose fitness for such a place until they had attained and held it was never adequately understood. . . .

What was the secret of the hold which in these later days he unquestionably had on the admiration and affection of men of all parties and men of all creeds? If, as I think was the case, he was one of those men who require to be fully known to be justly measured, may I say the more we knew him, both followers and opponents, the more we became aware that on the moral as on the intellectual side he had endowments, rare in themselves, still rarer in their combination? For example, he was singularly sensitive to human suffering and wrong-doing, delicate and even tender in his sympathies, always disposed to despise victories won in any sphere by mere brute force, an almost passionate lover of peace; and yet we have not seen in our time a man of greater courage.

. . . . In politics, I think he may be fairly described as an idealist in aim, and an optimist by temperament. Great causes appealed to him. He was not ashamed, even on the verge of old age, to see visions and to dream dreams.

How happy is he born and taught
That serveth not another's will;
Whose armour is his honest thought,
And simple truth his utmost skill.

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This man is freed from servile bonds
Of hope to rise or fear to fall;
Lord of himself though not of lands,
And, having nothing, yet hath all."

HALF A LOAF.

It was our intention, as we stated in our issue of the 8th, to devote a special article in the present number

to the ever-absorbing topic of civil service salaries. Not that it was hoped to say anything particularly new, or in the space of a few columns of reading matter, comprehensive, on that well-worn theme. Far be it from *THE CIVILIAN* to essay anything so impossible! But who, short of heaven, will not joy ever to weigh the prospects of a raise in pay? It was felt that at least an analysis of the commissioners' findings in the matter might be made, with special reference to the needs of the service (on which a very brief word was ventured in our last) and the proposed measure of relief by the government. But, alas, the day of printing has arrived, and there is still no definite word of cheer from the government. Bills and rumours of bills fill the air of Parliament, "thick as autumnal leaves on Vol-lombrosa." Among them, however, are not to be found the welcome, the thrice-prayed-for two (or is it three?) which are to soothe the Civil Service breast for ever and a day. It would seem a bootless thing to discuss so trite a subject, with a future so portentous, and so immediately to be realized, overhanging.

Meanwhile, another cloud, no bigger, or as yet not so very much bigger, than a man's hand, has crept into our sky, already overcast. Any salary is better than no salary at all. The deadlock in Parliament has stopped supplies, and the monthly pay-cheques of May 15th were in several of the Departments for exactly one-half. Half a loaf is better than no bread, but it is a motto which is not appreciated by the average civil servant at the present pass. It means, as it pointed out by a correspondent in another column, that credits will have to be prolonged, discounts lost, or debts and interest charges incurred. This is an ill time at which to contemplate such things. In all conscience the Civil Service has sufficient woes to carry without this last embarrassing straw. That such