



"THIS WAS THE MOST UNKINDEST 'CUT' OF ALL."

—Shakespeare, feelingly adapted by Mr. Maclean.

#### INTERVIEW WITH MR. GOLDWIN SMITH.



LEARNING that Mr. Goldwin Smith had returned to his adopted home, and was once more in the midst of his beloved books at the Grange, Mr. GRIP sent his chief literary man to obtain a brief interview with our distinguished fellow citizen.

Our representative was received with the charming hospitality which characterizes Mr. Smith in his own home, and in a few minutes the interview was progressing in a smooth and business-like manner before the generous open fireplace—the day was a little chilly—the interviewer pleasantly puffing a fine Havana, and the interviewed (who doesn't smoke) simply lying back in his armchair and toying with a paper weight in the form of a death's-head. Mr. Smith was looking quite robust, for him, and it was evident the trip to Europe had greatly benefited his health. It will be obvious from what follows that it also had a beneficial effect upon his mind. He was buoyant and cheerful, and had little or no trace of the mental biliousness which is commonly ascribed to him.

"How did you find (puff, puff) things in the (puff) old land, Mr. Smith?" asked our man.

"Oh," replied the learned gentlemen, with a smile, "things seemed on the whole to be going to the dogs, as usual."

"Would you (puff, puff) mind particularizing a little?" suggested the interviewer.

"Well, in the first place," replied Mr. Smith, beaming with jollity, "I spent some time at my old university, Oxford. I found scholastic matters in a condition fitted to sadden the heart of any lover of that seat of learning. The tendency is to the athletic. It is not the place it was in my day, and unless vigorous measures be at once

taken to bring back something of the old serious spirit, I almost despair of Oxford. But it is painful for me to dwell on the subject; you will find an article in one of the reviews in which I said my word. I refer you to that, and meanwhile let me pass to a more cheerful theme, comparatively. I might refer, for example, to the condition of things in England politically."

"Yes," assented the interviewer, "what (puff, puff) about the political situation?"

"Worse it cannot be," responded Mr. Smith, in a gay tone. "Unless I wholly misread the signs of the times, England is on the verge of revolution;—I might even go so far as to say that in my opinion, an immediate catastrophe, overwhelming and awful, is impending. They are agitating to mend or end the House of Lords, and although I do not fear any immediate success of the agitators, the Radicals have plainly got the bit in their teeth, and there is no saying what may eventually happen. Mended the House of Lords might possibly be, if a little reason could only find its way into the deafening babble of agitation. But nobody will listen to reason. Ended it cannot be, without immediately bringing about the catastrophe I have referred to. Then there is the Irish question. Gladstone, to be sure, has retired, and we might perhaps venture to breathe freely, if it were not that equally wild, reckless, visionary and diabolical politicians are left to carry on the strife. But of course Ireland will never get Home Rule. The electors of England are not quite prepared for the act of suicide. Mr. Blake has proved as abject a failure there as he was at home, though of course he is doing his best to ruin and dismember the Empire. Besides Home Rule, in the arsenal of these conscienceless leaders of a fatuous party, is another bomb, meant to do if possible even greater damage to the foundations of Great Britain. I refer to the Church Disestablishment question. With ruthless hands these men would tear down the temple of religion as well as the forum of state. As to the mart of commerce, it is well nigh dismantled already. Failure is written upon Free Trade, and worse than failure is spelled by Protection, and mean-



#### POLITICAL ECONOMY—POPULAR BRAND.

INDIGNANT UNEMPLOYED: "Jest look at that there un-earned increment on 'im ! stickin' out a mile !"