

Pamph.
Eng. Lit.
Beaconsfield

Beaconsfield, Benjamin Disraeli
(For Private Circulation.)

Earl of

18

THE ALLUSIONS IN "LOTHAIR."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION :

SIR : An edition of Disraeli's novels has been brought out by an American firm with a key to the personal allusions officially furnished by the late Lord Rowton, Disraeli's secretary and literary executor. Probably I am the last survivor of the set, so that, in saying a word about my own case, I may be helping to clear the memories of some of the rest.

The names generally are pseudonyms. Canning is "Mr. Charlatan Gas"; Dickens is "Mr. Gushy"; Bright is "Jawster Sharp"; but I am plainly designated as the "Oxford Professor." I am described as "a social parasite," overpowered at finding myself in company with a lord. This was not published when I was in England, where I may safely say it would have fallen flat or recoiled. It was published when I was in the United States, where I was unknown and the slander, stamped with Disraeli's name, might tell. Once only had I met Disraeli. I never interchanged a word with him. I lived in a circle entirely different from his, and one in which, if there were fewer high titles, there were at least as many great names.

I am described as being brought to the New World by dreams of wild vanity which the New World could alone realize. The truth was that I had settled for life on my professorship at Oxford, and built a house there. I was called away and obliged to resign my chair by a sad domestic duty, in the performance of which I had to spend a year and a half. Then, having no special employment, and being much in need of change, I gladly accepted the invitation of Mr. Andrew White to help him in the foundation of Cornell University for the special benefit of poor students. Having lectured at Cornell for two years, I came to reside with the branches of my family settled before me in Canada.