

the House of Lords. I heard Lord Salisbury address the Primrose League at the Covent Garden Theatre in 1894. Upon the stage were grouped the territorial magnates of the land, their attention fixed with rapt interest upon their acknowledged leader and the champion of their order. The clear, high-pitched voice, the impressive but never impassioned delivery, the perfect flow of language, the dignified presence, relieved from heaviness by the kindly gleam of a humorous eye, all appealed to the listener as forming a striking type of intellectual strength.

After taking the degree of B.A., Lord Robert Cecil travelled abroad, choosing not merely the continental tour of most educated Englishmen, but also visiting the British colonies. He went as far as New Zealand, and was the guest of Sir George Grey at Wellington. Together they took walks by the seashore, and discussed the new constitution of the colony. Thus by travel and study he qualified himself to deal with those questions of foreign and colonial policy, in the settlement of which he was afterwards to show unusual powers of patience, insight and skill. Returning to England, he was elected in August, 1853, without opposition, to the House of Commons as member for the borough of Stamford.

The years that follow are the developing period of his life. A candid person who met him at this time asserts that among his friends and relatives he was not regarded as of much consequence or promise. His sister alone believed in him fervently. "Give Robert only the chance," she is credited with saying, "and he will climb to the top of the tree." During these years he acquired his journalistic experiences. A peer's younger son, with an income of but £400 a year, who determines to marry the woman of his choice, and who has to bear the expenses imposed by social position and a seat in Parliament, must expect to augment his income either by office under the Crown or by some regular form of work. The former alternative was remote. Lord Robert

Cecil had yet to win his spurs in politics, and the prospects of his party, then in Opposition, were poor. He betook himself to writing for the press, a task for which he was exceptionally well equipped, and which must have proved to him, as to many others, the most congenial form of slavery known to civilized man. A college friend, Thomas Hamber, was the editor of the *Morning Herald* and the *Evening Standard*, two newspapers which had lately passed into the hands of the same proprietor, and to the columns of these journals the young M.P. contributed leading articles chiefly upon foreign politics. In 1855, Mr. A. J. Beresford-Hope, a wealthy relative by marriage, founded the *Saturday Review*, and Lord Robert Cecil was one of a group of brilliant men, including John Morley, Goldwin Smith, and Sir William Harcourt, who wrote regularly for that versatile and aggressive paper. His labours appear not to have been the occasional occupations of the dilettante writer, but the serious tasks of the working journalist. From his modest home in a quiet street off the Strand the future Prime Minister may have often taken a walk down Fleet Street with a supply of printer's copy in his pocket.

His elder brother died in June, 1865, and Lord Robert became Viscount Cranborne and heir to the title and vast possessions of the House of Cecil. By his already recognized talents, and his prospective succession to the family dignities he was now reckoned among the political magnates of the Conservative party. The *Times* said, when Parliament was dissolved: "Lord Cranborne, better known as Lord Robert Cecil, brings great ability to the support of his party. Industrious, pugnacious, vigorous and eloquent, Lord Cranborne has made his way from comparative obscurity to the front ranks of Parliament. His occasional rashness requires to be tempered by experience, but the virtues of prudence and moderation are more possible of attainment than the ability which is only given at birth."