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SOME UNPUBLISHED LETTERS OF THE EARL OF
LYTTON.

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THE author of *Lucile*—poet, statesman and diplomatist—was, in private life, a most charming man. His manner was engaging. He was frank and sympathetic. Travel, and a public career abroad, had done much for an impressionable nature. He was a good linguist, and familiar with the literatures of Spain, France, Italy, Russia, and the far East. In an unobtrusive way, he drew, in conversing with his friends—and he was a very agreeable talker—on the vast resources of a mind which much reading and observation had enriched. A Tory of the old school, he was, at times, apt to take a gloomy view of things, and to imagine that his country was losing her status among the nations. But of his sterling patriotism there never could be any doubt. Of course, the Irish Question distressed him, and he could never be brought to feel that from the establishment of Home Rule peace would come and the difficulty of centuries would cease. In looking over a packet of letters which he had written to me, a few years ago, in which he discussed, in a brief way, the questions of the hour, I thought, perhaps, that his opinions might be found interesting, even at this date, for matters have not materially changed since they were put on

paper. The Irish Question and Russia's attitude in the East are still engaging public attention, and there is yet much left to say before those problems can be solved. I have selected five of these letters, written so unreservedly, from Lord Lytton's delightful home at Knebworth, where the author was occupying his leisure hours in writing the biography of his father and completing, in six books, the beautiful poem of *Glenaveril*, which, however, the public did not accept with the readiness with which *Lucile* was welcomed and is still received.

This letter, dated 6th April, 1885, refers to India's financial and military position—a subject on which the ex-viceroy of that great empire could speak with the voice of authority. It also deals the British Government a blow on the Soudan episode and the Empire's relations towards Russia.

“KNEBWORTH, 6 April, 1885.

“Very many thanks for your information about the publication of English books in Canada. The monopoly of the American reprints is, I see, unassailable.

“Things are continually looking very black with us. The condition of Ireland does not seem to improve;