

## III.

There is an amusing glimpse of the beginning of that struggle between the War Office and the Horse Guards which was not closed till our own day. The Horse Guards, representing the military side of the War Office, was practically independent of the War Office, representing the civilian; and as they were separated by space, so also were they without communication with each other. They carried on their intercourse by correspondence, although the letters had not to traverse a longer distance than that which separates Whitehall from Pall Mall. Mr. Cardwell, a great Army reformer, resolved that this anomalous and dangerous division of authority should come to an end, and proposed to the Duke of Cambridge that he and his staff should remove to Pall Mall. One can easily understand the kind of reception such a proposal would get from that good old-fashioned relic of the eighteenth-century spirit—"the last of the Georges," as he used to be aptly called. Here is an excellent specimen of old-fashioned ideas which is worth preserving. It is in a letter from the Duke to Mr. Cardwell:

"The removal of the Commander-in-Chief to the office at Pall Mall, deprived, as he must be, moreover, of all his military surroundings, would place him in a position of subordination which would virtually deprive him of all his specific attributes, and would in fact place him more or less on an equality with the Controller-in-Chief, or any one of the Under-Secretaries of State. This would be a degradation which would altogether alter his status in the estimation of the Army and the public, and would, in my opinion, be most injurious to the interests of the Crown, the real head of the Army, and also to the public service."

But Mr. Cardwell was obdurate, and as there was no room in the old building in Pall Mall for the Horse Guards, Haliburton was sent with a section of the War Office to Whitehall. Haliburton was appointed as leader of this invasion, a task of no small difficulty. But he was both strong and diplomatic, so that what happened was this:

"He marched his staff of clerks into their new surroundings as if they were merely moving from the west to the east wing of the old buildings in Pall Mall. It was not a case of smoothing over difficulties; they simply ceased to exist. On the morning upon which the transfer was effected, the Duke came down in choleric mood, prepared to criticise the new department as if it were a regiment with a black mark against it paraded for annual inspection. He found everything working with the smoothness of a well-oiled machine. H.R.H. was an out-spoken Prince, and he ever gave frank expression to his feelings. "Well, I'm d—d!" was his only commentary, and he passed on to the order of the day; but from that hour, till his resignation of the command of the British Army, Haliburton had a supporter and friend in the Duke of Cambridge."

This was a felicitous ending to the transaction; but perhaps it would be just as well that a great public reform should not find so many obstacles in a country supposed to be mistress of her government and destinies.

## IV.

In time Haliburton rose to be Permanent Under-Secretary of the War Office; and here is a summary of his experiences:

"The two "Chiefs" to whom successively he became "Remembrancer" were Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman