

in his years of energetic public service venerated him as a political leader, but also, and perhaps even more especially, of others who in public offices were his strenuous opponents. From a respected Irish Catholic gentleman the thoughtful suggestion has come within the last few days that if any opportunity presented itself I should ask the faithful of the diocese to discharge some portion of the debt of gratitude which we owe to Mr. Gladstone by now remembering him in our prayers before the Throne of Mercy. I feel grateful for the suggestion. Doubtless through this letter it will be the means of obtaining for our venerable benefactor of former years many prayers, and in particular a prayer that God in whom he always trusted may now in his hour of suffering be pleased to send him comfort and relief to lighten his heavy burden, and to give him strength and patience to bear it, in so far as in the designs of Providence it may have to be borne for his greater good."

It was a comfort to learn that the aged sufferer was serene and peaceful; and, after learning the probable course of his illness, he was perfectly resigned. In his last days he was wonderfully calm and was only desirous of settling all important matters in which he was concerned. He would sit quite still, with eyes closed—the pallor of his face suggesting death—and enjoy the pleasures of reverie until a sudden spasm of pain awoke him. Sometimes, when he was sleeping placidly, his lips would be heard murmuring passages from his favourite classics. At other times he would imagine he was once more back in Parliament, and would, in his slumber, repeat various sentences on public questions, as though he were addressing the House of Commons. But, chiefly, his thoughts turned heavenwards in these days, and he longed to depart and be at rest. Once or twice, indeed, his lips could not restrain the utterance "Would God all were over!" But this natural impatience at the agony was short-lived, and he would soon regain his tranquillity.

He was much touched at the frequent inquiries made by the Queen and other members of the Royal Family, as well as by the hosts of friends all over the world. Not a few kindly suggestions for the alleviation of his pain were sent to his family from those who united with Mr. Gladstone "in the fellowship of suffering."

Allusions were made in the House of Commons to his illness, and they were received sympathetically by all sections of parties, who could still say, in the words of the late Lord Iddesleigh, "We are all proud of him." On all hands there was the deepest interest in the bulletins published daily concerning the aged patient.

These feelings of esteem were shared by politicians in other countries as was exemplified by the fact that in the Italian Senate Signor Artom said he thought the Senate would not be maintaining its noble traditions if, before suspending its labours, it did not give